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### Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church History, 1851-2001

Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, Orangeburg

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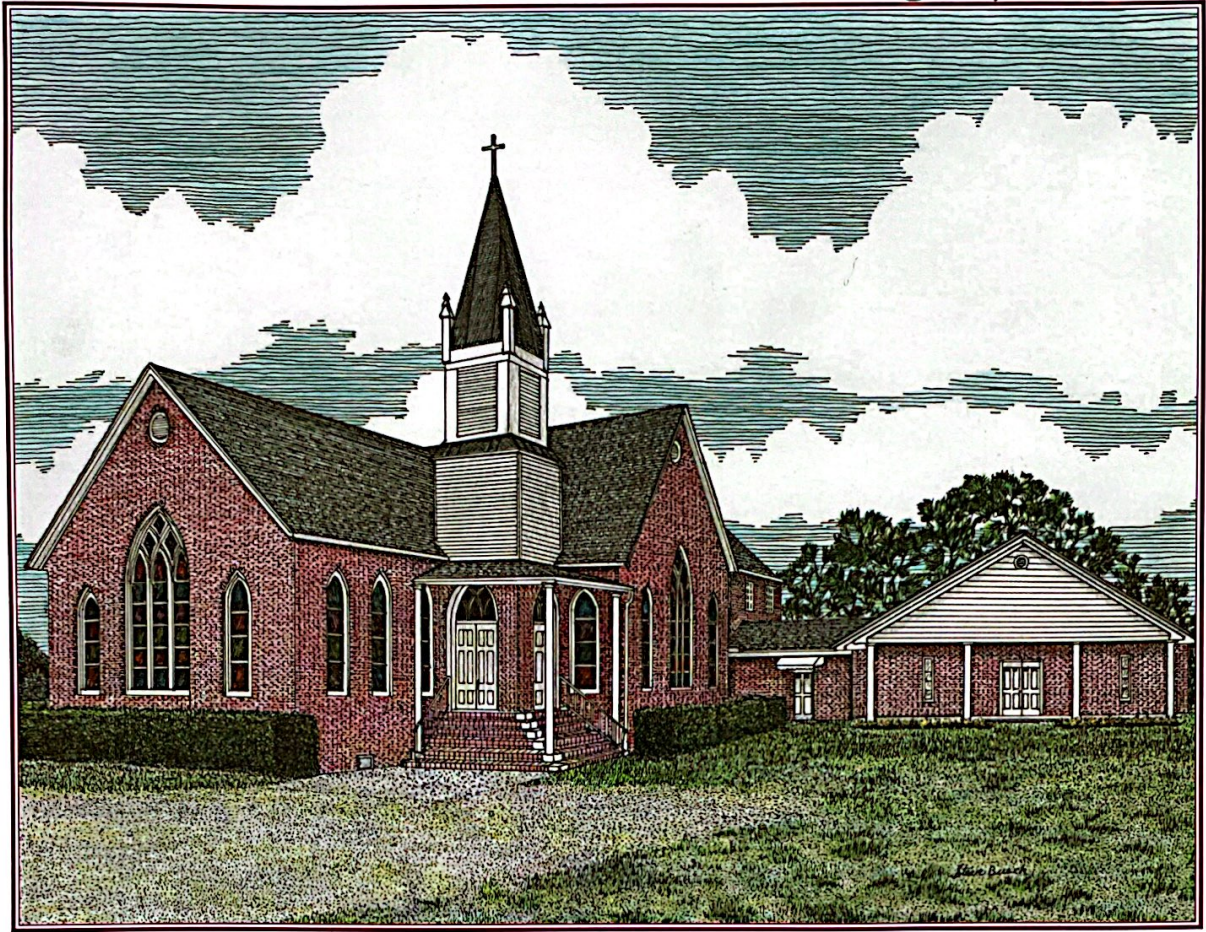
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Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, "Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church History, 1851-2001" (2024). *Methodist Local Church Records*. 411.

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Deborah  
Hoffman



**Andrew Chapel  
United Methodist Church**

**1851-2001**



HISTORY OF ANDREW CHAPEL  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1851-1953

*Through the years in web unbroken*

*Her history was ever spun:*

*But much still remains unspoken.*

*And from the past has not been won.*

Although life has pulsed around Andrew Chapel continuously for a hundred years, the history has not always been recorded. But the loss of some pages to the dim past should not be deplored too seriously, for as John Donne has assured us, "*God's hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again for that library where every book shall lie open to one another.*" So, without regrets, this sketch will be devoted to the highlights of her record of Christian service.

It was in 1851 that the Reverend W. Crook, Minister in Charge, appointed the following men to serve as the first Trustees of what is now Andrew Chapel: Lewis Zeigler, John Inabinet, George Sistrunk, James Keagler, L. A. Zeigler, Jacob Rucker, William Ott, Henry Corley, David Rucker and Robert Huffman.

At that time a small Church (called Pisgah) stood on a site one mile and a half north of the present Church property. The newly-named Trustees were to acquire a more desirable location. On December 10, 1851, Lewis Zeigler conveyed to this Board of Trustees, of which he was a member, a tract of land containing 3.65 acres. It was to be leased so long as it was kept as a place of public worship. This conveyance was witnessed by Mary V. Wolfe and Minerva T. Zeigler. Soon thereafter, the little weather-boarded Church, which had no ceiling, was moved to this place. Its name was changed to Andrew Chapel in honor of James Osgood Andrew, who preached the first sermon in the Church after it was moved to its new site. (We are deeply



grateful to Mrs. Stokes Crider for this bit of information, obtained by her from a conversation she had with Mr. O. B. Riley during his lifetime.)

From the book by Albert Deems Betts, we find that James O. Andrew was born in Wilkes County, Georgia, on May 3, 1794. He joined the Methodist Church at the age of 13 and was licensed to preach at 18. His first marriage, in Charleston, S. C., closely identified him with South Carolina. He was admitted to the S. C. Conference, which convened for its 27th Session in Charleston in 1812, and was sent as Junior Preacher to Saltketcher Circuit. In 1814, he was sent as Pastor to Bladen in the Pee Dee District.

In 1816, the 31st Session of the S. C. Conference met in Columbia. At this time, they agreed that no slave holder would be eligible for official station in the Church. Then Andrew was appointed to Wilmington in the Pee Dee District.

From appointments read at the 39th Session of the S. C. Conference in 1825, we find J. O. Andrew Presiding Elder of Charleston District.

Sometime between the 39th and 46th Sessions of the S. C. Conference, Andrew went back to the Georgia Conference and did his great evangelistic work in upper Georgia.

He was invited to speak at the 46th Session of the S. C. Conference, which met in Darlington in January 1832. At this Conference, a resolution was passed to furnish slaves, as fully as possible, with means of true Scriptural Instruction and the Worship of God.

Andrew was elected Bishop at the General Conference, which met May 1, 1832, in Old St. George's Church, Philadelphia. Andrew remarked, "*It is not my merit, but my poverty, that has made me a Bishop.*"

Later, Bishop Andrew came into possession of slaves through his marriages, and, so became the storm center that rent the Church in twain in 1844. Southern delegates finally won a majority of General Conference to approve a "Plan of Separation," with a General Conference having jurisdiction in the slave states and a General Conference in the free states. James O. Andrew died March 2, 1871, and is buried in Oxford, Georgia.



From this humble house of worship, which bears the name of this great man, the congregation was to move forward to the attainment of the present gracious edifice.

On the 5th day of November 1877, a second conveyance reaffirmed the original grant of land to the Church as a place of worship and/or burial ground and forever relinquished all claims. This deed was signed by Catherine S. (Zeigler Kaigler) Whetstone (who was the daughter of Lewis Zeigler) and by the sons of her first marriage, Bascomb C. Kaigler and James M. Kaigler. It was witnessed by A. H. Wolfe and George M. Whetstone, who was the husband of Catherine S. Whetstone. This deed firmly established the claim of the Trustees and their successors to the land. At that time, four from the original Board of Trustees were still serving. They were: John Inabinet, L. A. Zeigler, Jacob Rucker and Robert Huffman.

For the sum of \$24.00, F. L. Whetstone, who was a son of Catherine S. Whetstone, sold on August 25, 1903, an additional tract of land containing 1.25 acres to the Trustees of Andrew Chapel, who at that time were: O. B. Riley, J. M. Kaminer, T. J. Crider, R. D. P. Rucker, L. C. Murph, and G. M. Stabler. This deed was witnessed by Octavia O. Riley and Effie Olivia Riley.

In 1868, Andrew Chapel, together with Cross Roads Church, joined with three other churches (Trinity, Ebenezer and Gethsemane), which had hitherto constituted Upper Orange Circuit, and formed Orange Circuit. The quarterly conference minutes since that date show that Andrew Chapel has contributed a generous share to the finances of the Circuit. Although the Ministers in Charge, in their reports on the state of the Church, often lamented a spiritual indifference in a majority of the members, they always found enough manifestation of faith to be hopeful of future accomplishments. One Pastor reported that one member not only served his own Church as Superintendent of Sunday School, but traveled to other churches on the Circuit and served in that capacity when no one in the membership was available.

One Pastor, Reverend Addison Binky Lee, died April 15, 1885, while serving the Orange Circuit. He was buried directly behind the pulpit of the then-existing Andrew Chapel. At present, the tombstone is in the northwest corner of the graveyard.



In these early records, mention is made of negro members of the churches of Orange Circuit. These were ex-slaves, who remained with their former masters and often drove their carriages to church. At Andrew Chapel, where there was no balcony, they sat in the back of the Church and worshiped harmoniously with their former masters. Since this occurred during the confusion and turmoil of reconstruction, it indicates fair treatment by the former owners and a good influence on the part of the Methodist Church.

In the early years of the 20th century, plans were made for a new building, and in 1905, the present Church was constructed at a cost of \$2841.77. The following men ably served on the Building Committee: O. B. Riley, B. C. Kaigler, B. F. Rucker, J. H. Inabinet, J. N. Reid, L. C. Murph, J. R. Herlong, S. H. Stabler, H. D. Ott, G. W. Stabler, C. L. Staley, R. J. Rucker and L. E. Crider. The old Church was moved about three miles up Highway No. 6 and became Prodigal AME Church. On February 12, 1911, the following committee was appointed for the addition of the Sunday School assembly room and classrooms: E. R. Crider, Benson Livingston and J. R. Rast. This addition blends harmoniously with the main body of the building.

On approaching Andrew Chapel, the sight of the bell tower and spire recalls these lines by John E. Woodrow:

*"The Church should have a tapering spire,  
To point to realms where sin's forgiven,  
And lead men's thoughts from earth to heaven.*

*I like a tower.*

*It speaks of strength, of might, of power,  
An emblem of the Church's strength  
To overcome the world at length."*

The tower and spire are not extremely tall, but their height is pleasingly proportioned to the Church. The tower is square-based and, like the rest of the building, is constructed of



wood and painted white. The spire has four sharply-pointed sides and is covered with copper. Although the Church conforms to no particular style of architecture, the tall windows, with their pointed arches, lend a suggestion of the Gothic. Inside the sanctuary, the glass of these windows transmits the light in a soft diffusion of rainbow colors of green, gold, rose, and blue. Together with the high ceiling, which is simply but attractively paneled, they contribute to an impression of serenity and repose.

No historical sketch of Andrew Chapel would be complete without mention of the many years of service which the late Onan B. Riley and his wife, the late Octavia Olivia Riley, devoted to the Church. In 1872, four years after their marriage, they both moved their membership to Andrew Chapel. Mr. Riley served as Superintendent of the Sunday School from 1882 to 1927, a period of 45 years. Mrs. Riley served as President of the Missionary Society from 1882 until her death. Mr. Riley was a member of the Board of Trustees for 63 years, from 1882 to 1945. On June 16, 1935, Mr. Riley presented to the Church a large Bible in memory of Mrs. Riley, who had passed away in 1926.

The membership of Andrew Chapel now totals 230 members. The spiritual quality is too vital, both to the individual and to the membership in general, to comment thoughtlessly and facetiously. But levity need not be irreverent. So, in attempting to evaluate the present state of the Church, it may not be amiss to quote an early Pastor, who, in his day, described it as "*not so bad that it couldn't be worse, and not so good that it couldn't be better.*"

However, the support of the Church budget is in itself an indication of interest in Christian welfare, and the Chairman of the Board of Stewards has reported that the finances of the Church have never been in better condition than at present.

In 1953, the following are serving as Stewards: Hugo Staley, Chairman; Walter J. Staley; Horton Hair; Frank Stabler; Dr. L. C. Davis; Hubert Robinson; E. Stokes Crider; L. D. Hutto; Jim Zeigler; R. F. Wannamaker; W. P. Culclasure; and Thad Ott. Mr. Elliott R. Crider, who long served as an active Steward, has recently been named as Honorary Steward for life.



The 1953 Board of Trustees were: Ernest Stabler, Rupert Wannamaker, Ben Staley, and Harold Rucker.

The Centennial Homecoming of Andrew Chapel Methodist Church was celebrated on Sunday, October 18, 1953. The Reverend L. F. Hartley was Pastor. The morning session was more or less conducted by laymen. During this session, there were special music, Bible reading, and prayer and the Church's history for the first hundred years of service was read.

The day was clear and balmy, so dinner was served on a long table set up at the side of the Church building. There were the best of foods in abundance, one or two barrels of lemonade on a truck nearby, and a fairly large crowd to consume both.

The afternoon session began at 2:00 o'clock and, again, there was special music. The sermon was delivered by Reverend E. A. Wilkes (a son of the former E. A. Wilkes, who served the Orange Circuit in 1898). After the sermon, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" was sung and the Benediction given.

#### 1953-1978

We have all observed over the years that churches are not exempt from PEAKS and VALLEYS, and neither are we who make up the Church. But, as one poet has put it: "*There is a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them as we may.*" Since we are Church people and believe in that DIVINITY, we can once again pick up the thread that partially unravels the History of Andrew Chapel Church over the past twenty-five years.

The members of Andrew Chapel have often been accused, by outsiders, of being a somewhat haughty, indifferent, and selfish crowd. Here is a "plug" to the contrary. On Sunday, April 18, 1954, Andrew Chapel folks invited two Baptist Churches in the community, Gethsemane and Congaree, to join in an Easter Sunrise Service at Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Staley's pond. It was a cold morning, but the service was beautiful and impressive.

This period of the middle fifties may be termed one of self-examination and evaluation, one of discussion and planning. Result: an Educational Building was seen for the future.



The Official Board, under the leadership of the Reverend Royce Burman Tyler, elected the following to serve as a Building Committee: Hugo S. Staley, Chairman; Rupert F. Wannamaker; John O. Saylor; Harold D. Rucker; Dewey H. Wannamaker; Hampie F. Ott; Percy W. Culclasure; and Ben L. Staley. Clifton Riley of St. Matthews, S.C., was employed to draw plans for the Educational Building, and for the present Sunday School rooms, and for remodeling of the front of the sanctuary, including choir loft and choir room. The plans were accepted and bids for this work were received from several contractors. The Saylor Brothers of Swansea, S.C. (Percy, Furman and Larkin), were low bidders and were given the contract. Work was begun on the building early in May 1959, during the ministry of the Reverend Royce B. Tyler, who came to Andrew Chapel in 1954 and remained until July 8, 1959. The Official Board made a special request to the District Superintendent (Dr. Lester Kingman) to return Reverend Tyler to the Charge to see the building programs through. The request was not granted. The Reverend Phil Jones was sent to the Charge and the building program was completed during his two-year ministry.

Funds for the building were raised through barbecues, free will offerings of money, gifts of materials, equipment, time and talent. Only \$5,000.00 was borrowed, to be repaid in two years. This obligation was met without difficulty. Occasionally a member of Andrew Chapel bequeaths money to the Church in his/her will, stipulating that the principal be invested and only the interest from the investment be used. Dr. L. C. Davis left such a gift in 1959. It was received by the then Trustees (S. Horton Hair, R. F. Wannamaker, and B. L. Staley).

With remodeling being done in the sanctuary, it was immediately noted that some changes would be needed in furnishings. The W.S.C.S. undertook the sponsorship for new carpet. Much hard work in the way of bake sales, barbecues, and entertainment, went into raising \$950.00 for this carpet, which was installed the week before Easter (April 17, 1960), by Woodrow Tyler of Orangeburg. The committee selecting the carpet was composed of: Mrs. Percy Culclasure, Mrs. Walter Staley, Mrs. Hampie Ott, Mr. John O. Saylor, Mr. Hugo Staley, and



Reverend Phil Jones. The re-upholstered chairs in the pulpit and altar kneeling pads were installed a week later by Cromer's Upholstery Shop, West Columbia, S. C. (\$122.25). Somewhere along the line, the Men's Club placed the table in the vestibule, and the M.Y.F. placed an outside light in the yard.

In 1962, Julian Rucker, contractor in the community, was awarded the contract to brick veneer the Church. This work was begun September 5, 1962, while Reverend R. L. McCraw was Pastor. Trustees were: Horton Hair, Stokes Crider, and Rupert Wannamaker. Many gifts have been given to the Church in memory of departed loved ones. These are used and enjoyed Sunday after Sunday by the grateful congregation.

Andrew Chapel has its own cemetery, surrounded by a sufficiently high chain-link fence to protect the property. There is always upkeep for these places, and while the members have been very diligent in keeping the cemetery, there has long been a desire to plan for permanent care. On December 4, 1972, the Andrew Chapel Memorial Cemetery Fund was created by Mrs. St. Claire (Splawn) Davis: (1) to provide perpetual care for the cemetery; (2) to landscape and make improvements; and (3) to acquire more land for cemetery use. The contributions are invested and the income from the investment is to be used for the above purposes, giving priority in the above order. The Trust Agreement was recorded at the Calhoun County Courthouse on August 21, 1978 (Mis. 6-1645). The Fund now has around \$10,000.00 in its permanent fund.

On April 3, 1968, two bodies of Methodist people united: The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The word UNITED was taken from one Church and METHODIST from the other, and so our Church came to be Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, along with all other Methodist Churches.

Andrew Chapel's choir talked about an organ for a long time, but nothing definite was decided. Finally, on January 20, 1975, Johnnie B. Saylor had an organ delivered on trial. On Sunday, January 26, 1975, Carolyn Thompson (Mary Carolyn Kaminer, a former member), played



this organ for the Church service. It was so well liked by the congregation that by February 23, 1975, it was paid for by donations.

Another building program was undertaken in 1975, when our congregation voted to build a new parsonage to be located in our community, instead of Woodford. This was a Charge undertaking. For \$1,000.00, one acre of land on Kennerly Road, not far from the location of the first parsonage owned by the Charge, was acquired from Simmons Livingston. Construction was begun in the fall of 1977 and completed in May 1978. The congregation was asked to contribute as much as possible to avoid the high interest on borrowing money. The ladies of the Charge had bake sales, flea markets, and received gifts and money for the furnishings. The best furniture from the old parsonage was refinished and used. The old parsonage was sold and the money applied to the new one. When Open House was held in May 1978, the congregations were very proud of their beautiful new parsonage and very thankful that, with God's help, we owed only a small amount of money. The total cost of the parsonage was \$55,242.25, of which \$1800.00 is unpaid. Parsonage Trustees were: Elliott Rucker, Chairman; Melton Stabler, Treasurer; Nelson Wingard; and Olin Hoover.

These remarks would not be complete without mentioning the fact that we have a young man of sterling qualities, who grew up in our community, attended Sunday School and Church at Andrew Chapel, entered Columbia College in 1972, and received his first preaching appointment to Newberry Circuit in 1977. He is now preaching and attending the Lutheran Seminary to further his education. When he graduates in 1980, he will go into full-time ministry. This is none other than Bruce Rucker, son of Lewie and Meredith Wolfe Rucker, and a great-great-grandson of the Mr. Zeigler, who donated the land upon which Andrew Chapel now rests.

#### 1978-1983

The euphoria of completing the new parsonage lasted over the summer, and a Homecoming, the first in 25 years, was held on a beautiful Sunday in October 1978. Over 250 people attended. The morning message was brought by a former pastor, the Reverend Royce



Tyler. Dinner was served under the pine trees in the yard and former members, pastors, visitors, and current members had a joyous time visiting and reminiscing. A history of the previous 25 years was added to that compiled by Janesse Hall Stabler for the 100th Anniversary and copies were available for all.

On Sunday, April 29, 1979, with the debt on the parsonage paid, Dr. Wannamaker Hardin, Orangeburg District Superintendent, led in the dedication of the parsonage. In 1982, Johnnie B. Saylor volunteered to build a storage building at the parsonage and in 1983, another acre of land around the parsonage was purchased from Simmons Livingston.

After the Homecoming, the Church became more aware of the aging of the congregation. With such a large segment of the congregation above the age of 65, the Church responded by more involvement with projects pertaining to that age group. Quarterly, the Church distributes "Mature Years," a magazine for senior citizens, and plans some social activity for these "Super Citizens." Andrew Chapel, along with Wesley Chapel, Congaree, West Bethel, and Gethsemane have worked together in having several activities for the older people in the area.

A drive was made in 1982 to encourage perfect attendance at Church School. The senior citizens were consistently present almost every Sunday, but the other ages fared poorly in comparison. The older members' faithfulness to the work of the Church is a great inspiration.

The Church has been searching for its mission in these changing times. The Church has been consciously trying to overcome its reputation for not being a caring Church. It has given a helping hand to people in the area who are in need, suffering from sickness, or whose homes have been burned. Reverend Poole has been a caring Pastor, and having the parsonage family live in the community has been a blessing to the Church.

A monthly newsletter, "Andrew Chapel Chimes," was started in January 1982. It has announcements, inspirational material, birthdays of members, and news of Church events. Also begun was a Church Library to offer help to the Church School teachers.



A class for Young Adults was started in 1982 and there are many prayers for its success. The last class organized for adults was about 1950, and the Church has not been able to hold the younger adults, except for Sunday morning services. Many young adults are still missing the great opportunity being offered for spiritual growth, worship and Christian fellowship. Also, the Church sorely needs leadership that these younger people could contribute.

In 1982, the Church was proud to have another person who grew up in our Church become a part-time local Pastor. Melton Stabler became Pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church in Orangeburg. With two former members (Melton and Bruce Rucker) serving as Pastors in the Methodist Conference, the Church must have been doing something right.

#### 1983-1992

Before Reverend Jack Poole's tenure ended, another member of the Church, Ray Twork, decided to go into the ministry and was accepted into the Conference.

Work began in 1984 and was completed in 1985 to give our eighty-year-old sanctuary a new look. Our black chandeliers were polished to a gleaming brass. The sanctuary was painted and the old pews repaired, refinished, and cushioned. New carpet was installed in the vestibule, sanctuary, choir loft, and choir room. The altar rail was refinished, and kneeling pads and pulpit chairs recovered to match the carpet. The polished altar appointments serve as a focal point for the pulpit furniture, which was also repaired and refinished. All of these improvements were made possible by gifts from caring people.

In 1984, a Church sign was erected on the Church grounds near the highway as a memorial to Rawl Culclasure by his family.

On the north side of the cemetery there were several graves (marked only by big stones) that had been moved from the old Pisgah Church to Andrew Chapel. In 1987, markers and cornerstones were erected for these old graves by the officers of the Memorial Cemetery Fund.



After finishing the refurbishing of the Church building, a committee was appointed to look into the building of a fellowship hall. In May 1988, the Church voted to begin the building. Groundbreaking was held December 3, 1988, with the Reverends Bruce Rucker and Melton Stabler assisting Pastor Buster Huggins in the ceremony. A Building Committee was appointed and given authority to make all decisions and serve until completion. They were: Lewie Rucker, Chairman; Guy Wannamaker; James Wannamaker, Virginia Ott, Splawn Davis; and the Trustees and Treasurer.

By using free donations of machinery, labor, materials, and subcontracting the work, the building was completed in 1992 at a cost of about \$58,000.00, excluding furnishings. By using a pay-as-you-build basis, the building was free of debt at completion.

In 1989, the Conference took Andrew Chapel away from the Orange Charge and put it with the St. Matthews Circuit. This reassignment brought several problems, among them an empty parsonage, change in time of services, and loss of our young adults and their children to other Churches. The District Superintendent assures us that in 1993 we will have a Pastor in our parsonage, which probably means a different alignment of churches.

In the spring of 1991, the Church steeple was redone. The weather vane on top was replaced by a cross. The old weather vane will be preserved because of its age and history of Andrew Chapel.

The Church has continued its outreach to those in need. It remembers the sick and shut-ins with flowers, cards, gifts and food. It extends a helping hand to those in trouble. The Ladies Class has supported a child in Africa for many years.

The Church has lost many of its senior members through death. Our membership in 1992 is 146.



Our fathers have left us a rich spiritual legacy. It is our duty not to squander it, but to leave it replenished so that we, in our generation, may bequeath to those who come after us a tradition as noble as was left to us.

#### 1993-2001

When our Church was a part of the St. Matthews Circuit, Rev. Lindsey Rivers served as our Pastor and lived in St. Matthews, so our parsonage was empty. In 1993, Andrew Chapel was put on the Calhoun Charge, which consisted of Andrew Chapel, West Bethel, and Wesley Chapel. Rev. Gary Peterson was Pastor and his family moved into our parsonage. We were happy to have a Pastor back in our community and the parsonage occupied again.

In 1994, the Calhoun Charge was changed to just two churches, Andrew Chapel and Wesley Chapel. Rev. Jack A. Poole came back as our Pastor after a ten-year absence. Our attendance has increased and our membership is now 145, even though we have lost many members through death.

In 1995, the Administrative Council decided to rotate officers every three years. This would give more members a chance to serve and others a chance to serve on more committees.

A ramp for the handicapped was installed between the Church and the cemetery fence. After several break-ins, a burglar alarm system was installed in the Church.

In 1997, Andrew Chapel finally became sole owner of the parsonage by buying out St. John's (\$9,060.96) and Trinity's (\$6,074.09) financial interest.

A lounge and restroom were built in a corner of the old fellowship hall. The Sunday School rooms were carpeted to cut down on the noise. Playground equipment was purchased for our children.



We now have a larger group of young people participating in Church activities. We give credit to Lori Hair and Cyndi Spires for starting our UMYF again. They are doing a great job in involving the young people in the life of the Church.

Several times during the year the children present programs and on occasion the Children's Choir has special music. It is a joy to observe their performances and to note their growth spiritually.

The Sunday School classes have been increasing in membership. We appreciate the dedication of the teachers and the caring concern the members show each other. It is a time to examine the scripture and its message for each of us, and to clarify our beliefs and increase our faith.

Following the advice of the S. C. Conference, in 1998 the Church was incorporated.

The Church library was moved to the old fellowship hall and a Library Fund was started to add new books. Bible commentaries, devotional books, biographies, fiction, art, music, Bible study books, method books, crafts, etc., have been added.

The social activities of the Church have increased since the completion of the Fellowship Building. Special events are held each month. A porous wall covering was installed in 1999 to help with acoustics.

Through the years, special gifts have been given to the Church. A permanent register of these gifts is recorded in a red gold-stamped book that is kept in an oak stand crafted by Hubert Kizer. These contributions have added immeasurably to our Church. Some benefactors chose to be anonymous. To those in whose memories these gifts were given and to those who selflessly gave, we are grateful.

The Open Memorial Fund begun by the Stabler family has been giving scholarships to our graduating seniors who go on to college or technical schools.

The Memorial Cemetery Fund has grown through bequests and memorials, so that since its inception, it has spent over \$25,000.00 on cemetery upkeep. This means that the Church



has had this amount of its own money to spend for other purposes. We are indebted to those who have cared enough to support the Fund. Our Church will benefit from their generosity for generations to come.

Andy Stabler has been taking courses and has become a certified Lay Speaker.

The Church has been contributing more to local missions for aid to families overwhelmed by extraordinary health problems and associated expenses.

We have participated in the Souper Bowl each year to raise money for the Oliver Gospel Mission. We have sent offerings to help flood victims at the beach and kits to flood victims in Honduras. We contribute money to the Gideons to buy Bibles.

Senior citizens and shut-in's are given special attention several times each year.

The strength of our Church today and tomorrow will be determined by the quality of our love -- love for God, for one another, and for the lost world. The future is as bright as the promises of God and his purposes in our lives and in our Church.



## Recollections of Andrew Chapel During the 1900's

On September 2, 1994, at Ada Wannamaker's home in St. Matthews, Splawn Davis taped the conversation she had with these three Crider sisters:

Ada Crider Wannamaker (1898-1998)

Jettie Crider Staley (1906-1999)

Lula Crider Matthews (1904-1999)

The following is a compilation of their remembrances of Andrew Chapel during their lifetimes:

*The Church did not have preaching every Sunday, because the churches on the Charge had to take turns. The Preacher had to travel dirt roads and the horses had to have rest. A few people eventually had cars. The Presiding Elder (now called District Superintendent) probably had a car earlier than most other people. Dirt roads (now named Chapel Trail and Mulberry Lane) led off Highway 6 and circled around to the church. When the road in front of the church was paved, the Highway Department made it go straight out to Highway 6.*

*Five men (Stewards) made all the decisions about the Church. They didn't meet often. The Stewards told every member how much they had to pay for the Preacher's salary. The ladies thought the children were assessed twenty-five cents and their mother a dollar. In the fall, the Stewards went around to collect the money. The amount each one paid was written down in a book and was public knowledge.*

*When money was needed for something at the Church, the Chairman would call a meeting after preaching and tell how much money was needed. Each member was asked to stand and tell how much he would pay 'til the needed amount was promised. The Church has always been wary of borrowing money and going into debt.*

*The sanctuary had a pot-bellied stove and the Sunday School room had another. At first they burned wood, later coal. People had to wear lots of clothes in the winter. Much later, floor furnaces were put in.*

*The piano was to the right of the pulpit, and the choir sat on the first two rows by the piano. They did not have choir practice; they just sang the old hymns they knew.*

*The cemetery had no fence to begin with. Later there was a picket fence. When the Sunday School rooms were added behind the pulpit, the door to the cemetery, with its little porch, was added, and the pulpit was enlarged to make room for the choir.*



*When they were young, Sunday School for the children was in the big room at the back of the sanctuary. The children sat around in little groups with their teachers. Children had to listen carefully because of all the talking, but they managed to listen anyway. Children learned more about the Bible then, than now. They had colorful cards with the Bible story on them. They could hardly wait to get the card on Sunday. It was so pretty. People had large families back then, so there were lots of children at Church. The men and women had Sunday School in separate classes in the sanctuary. (Later cubicles were added in the big room to separate the children's classes.)*

*Each Sunday, O. B. Riley would bring a cooler with ice in it and put it in the vestibule. They got water from the spring across the road from the Church. Back then, people hardly ever had ice, so the children would drink as much water as they could hold. At Christmas, Mr. Riley would bring lemonade.*

*Children's Day was a big thing. The Church was decorated as if for a wedding. The altar rail was always wrapped in white. One group went up to perform, then another. It was always on Saturday and was followed by a big dinner. Young and old worked together to make the day memorable. Dr. D. R. Sturkie always encouraged the children in their performances.*

*In the 1950's the District held training sessions at the North Methodist Church. The Church was running over with people. The meetings were very informative. They had excellent speakers, who gave us good ideas to take back to our local Churches.*

*There was also a drive to organize young adult classes in the Churches. The members went to meetings at many churches in the area and met a lot of people with similar interests. The MYF did the same.*

*Revivals were always held in July and lasted for a week. One service was at 11:00 a.m. and another at night. Different families would feed the Preachers and their wives for dinner and for supper. The members would go home with each other after services and have such a good time during the afternoon.*

*The members often visited other families on Sunday afternoons. The sisters regretted that we do not visit each other the way we used to do.*

These ladies lived through about two-thirds of our Church's history. Andrew Chapel was always an important part of their lives. It is interesting to learn about the Church from their viewpoint. They give us an insight to our past history that perhaps can guide us to make our Church more meaningful in this century.



## Andrew Chapel Musicians During the 1900's

This information was given to Gladys Robinson by Tiney Staley Sturkie (1899-1990) in April 1984.

In the beginning, Andrew Chapel congregations sang their hymns led by anyone who could pitch the tune. One of these leaders was T. W. Oliver. After the turn of the century, a pump organ was donated by O. B. Riley. Maggie Ott was the first organist, followed by Mary Adella Kaigler and Dora Murph Davis. It is believed that a piano was obtained around 1917-1918. No one can recall what happened to the organ or how the piano was acquired.

Around 1918, Mr. John Brewington came to Andrew Chapel and taught singing for ten days. Miss Tiny Staley played for this occasion and has continued playing intermittently to the present day.

Others that have played are: Lucille Rucker, Ora Culclasure, Ethel Steadman, Teresa Stabler, Rodney Robinson, Ernestine Stabler, Hodges Kaminer, Mary Carolyn Kaminer, Frances F. Rucker, and Lori Poole. For many years, Lula Wannamaker has been our accompanist, assisted by Nancy Nickells and Tiney Sturkie. Some of these people have played for years, while others have played because they were needed.

Some played before we had electric fans or air conditioning, when there was an abundance of gnats.

Some played with cold fingers, when the only heat was a pot-bellied stove nestled in the back left corner of the sanctuary. Some played by ear and some played with years of musical training.

They played, perhaps, with not as much appreciation and encouragement as they deserved, but they all played because they loved God and Andrew Chapel.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: Carrie Livingston Herlong (1906-1994) remembers the church sold the organ to Rachel Starks for \$10.00.

Mrs. Sue Hildebrand Livingston (1877-1959) had the new piano brought to Andrew Chapel on trial. It was a Stief and was purchased by the Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lula Wannamaker continued until 1995, when Lori Poole Hair took over as Music Director. Lula continues to serve as a substitute for Lori.

\*\*\*\*\*



This interesting bit of information comes from Doris Wannamaker Ott. Her mother, Ellen Oliver Wannamaker (1893-1989), told her that Doris's grandfather, John Samuel Oliver (1857-1907), was singing in the choir at Andrew Chapel when he had a heart attack and died in Jim Herlong's arms. The hymn book he was using was passed down to his descendants by his daughter, Carrie Lou Oliver Senn.

\*\*\*\*\*

This information was compiled from old legal and Church documents, minutes of the Church, and recollections of the members at the time the history was written.

History Committees

1851-1953

Janesse P. Stabler, Chairperson  
Jettie C. Staley  
Arlene R. Ott  
Sallie R. Wannamaker

1954-1978

Sallie R. Wannamaker, Chairperson  
Arlene R. Ott  
Elise H. Saylor  
Jettie Staley

1978-1983

Splawn Davis  
Gladys W. Robinson  
Virginia I. Ott  
Jamimah C. Baughman

1983-1992

Gladys W. Robinson  
Virginia I. Ott  
Splawn Davis

1993-2001

Gladys W. Robinson  
Splawn Davis  
Doris Ott



**PASTORS OF ANDREW CHAPEL**

Rev. W. Crook

Rev. H. B. Maness

Rev. Dennis J. Simmons

Rev. Lewis Rast

Rev. John Inabinet

Rev. W. M. Martin

Rev. R. B. Tarrant

Rev. J. L. Beasley

Rev. A. R. Danner

Rev. J. B. Massabeau (1878-1879)

Rev. R. R. Dagnal (1880-1881)

Rev. A. B. Lee (1882-1883)

Rev. L. S. Bellinger (1884)

Rev. B. M. Grier (1885-1887)

Rev. M. L. Banks (1888-1889)

Rev. D. Z. Dantzler (1890-1892)

(It is believed that Rev. Dantzler had previously served at Andrew Chapel just after Rev. Danner)

Rev. L. S. Bellinger (1893-1895)

Rev. W. E. Wiggins (1896)

Rev. M. K. Melton (1897)

Rev. E. A. Wilkes (1898-1899)

Rev. J. D. Frierson (1900)

Rev. B. H. Rawls (1901-1903)

Rev. M. F. Dukes (1904-1907)

Rev. T. L. Belvin (1908-1911)

Rev. J. J. Stevenson (1912-1914)

Rev. J. A. Graham (1915-1916)

Rev. T. L. Belvin (1917-1919)

Rev. S. W. Danner (1920-1921)

Rev. J. W. Ariall (1922-1924)

Rev. J. F. Way (1925-1927)

Rev. W. M. Mitchell (1928-1931)

Rev. L. D. B. Williams (1932-1934)



**Pastors of Andrew Chapel (Continued)**

Rev. A. V. Harbin (1935-1936)  
Rev. C. O. Shuler (1937-1939)  
Rev. B. S. Hughes (1940-1943)  
Rev. Paul T. Wood (1944-1945)  
Rev. M. G. Arant (1946-1949)  
Rev. Louis F. Hartley (1950-1953)  
Rev. Royce Burman Tyler (1954-1959)  
REV. Phil MACE Jones (1959-1961)  
Rev. Robert Lee McCraw (1961-1965)  
Rev. James Allen Grigsby (1965-1971)  
Rev. George Dewey Brazill (1971-1975)  
Rev. Josie Lee Tyler Jr. (1975-1977)  
Rev. Jack Allen Poole (1977-1984)  
Rev. Thomas Harmon Norrell (1984-1985)  
Rev. Howard Franklin Perry Jr. (1985-1986)  
Rev. James Herndon Shepherd (1986-1987)  
Rev. Buster Thornwell Huggins (1987-1989)  
Rev. Lindsey Eugene Rivers Jr. (1989-1993)  
Rev. Gary Alan Peterson (1993-1994)  
Rev. Jack Allen Poole (1994- )

**Superintendents of Sunday School at Andrew Chapel**

Jacob Reid

(Though there is no written record of his service, several of the oldest members recall that Jacob Reid served prior to O. B. Riley)

O. B. Riley  
S. H. Stabler  
J. O. Saylor  
D. H. Wannamaker  
Melton Stabler  
Larry Rucker  
Thad Ott  
Harry Ott



**Presiding Elders of Orangeburg District**

**Rev. J. Simmons**

**Rev. N. A. C. Walker**

**(Surely more than two Presiding Elders served from 1851-1878. More research is needed.)**

**Rev. Manning Brown**

**Rev. Thomas Raysor (1882)**

**Rev. Thomas Jefferson Clyde (1886-1889)**

**Rev. James Walter Dickson (1890-1893)**

**Rev. John Owen (1894-1897)**

**Rev. Henry Bascom Browne (1898-1901)**

**Rev. Marion Dargon (1902-1905)**

**Rev. James Whitefield Kilgo (1906)**

**Rev. Charles Betts Smith (1907-1910)**

**Rev. Martin Luther Banks (1911-1914)**

**Rev. Andrew Jackson Cauthen (1915-1917)**

**Rev. Peter Stokes (1918-1921)**

**Rev. John Hagon Graves (1922-1925)**

**Rev. William Roy Phillips (1926-1929)**

**Rev. Samuel Oliver Cantey (1930-1933)**

**Rev. Edward King Garrison (1934-1937)**

**Rev. George Kirkland Way (1938-1943)**

**Rev. Wallace Duncan Gleaton (1944-1947)**

**Rev. Toy Fennel Reid (1948-1953)**

**District Superintendents**

**(Title changed while Rev. Reid was serving)**

**Rev. Pierce Embree Cook (1954-1956)**

**Rev. Henry Lester Kingman (1957-1962)**

**Rev. Lloyd DeFoix Bolt (1963-1967)**

**Rev. Thomas Carlisle Shuler (1968-1973)**

**Rev. Granville Aiken Hicks (1974-1975)**

**Rev. Elliott Wannamaker Hardin (1976-1981)**

**Rev. Frank Bundy Bynum Jr. (1982-1985)**

**Rev. Hiram E. Wilson (1985-1991)**

**Rev. William W. McNeill (1991-1994)**

**Rev. Angelin Jones Simmons (1994- )**



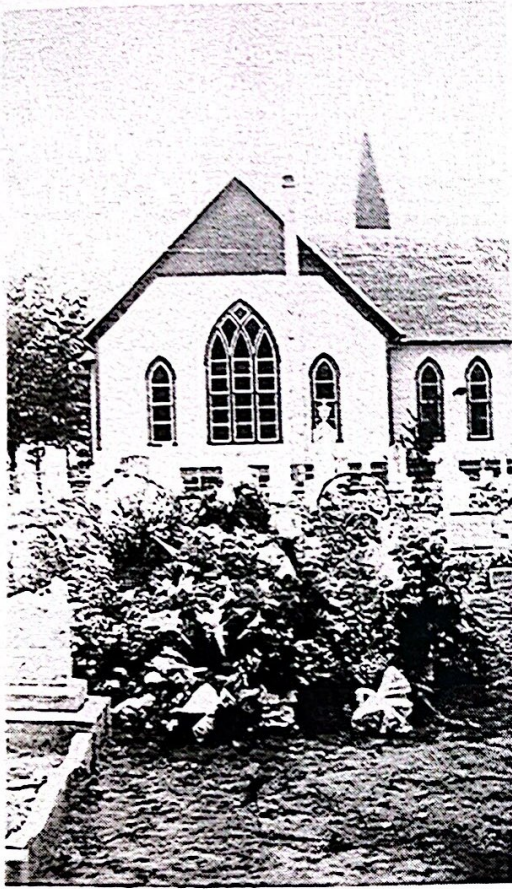


**Andrew Stabler, Arthur Reed and Hamp Ott  
(Before addition on front)**

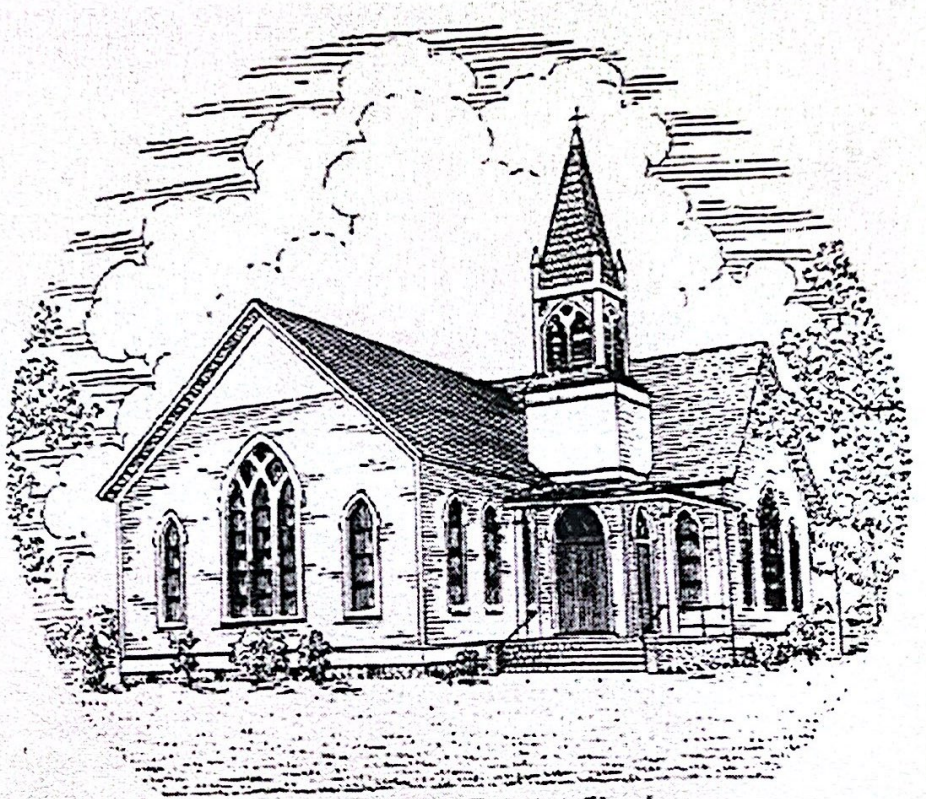


**Children's Day  
(Early 1900's)**



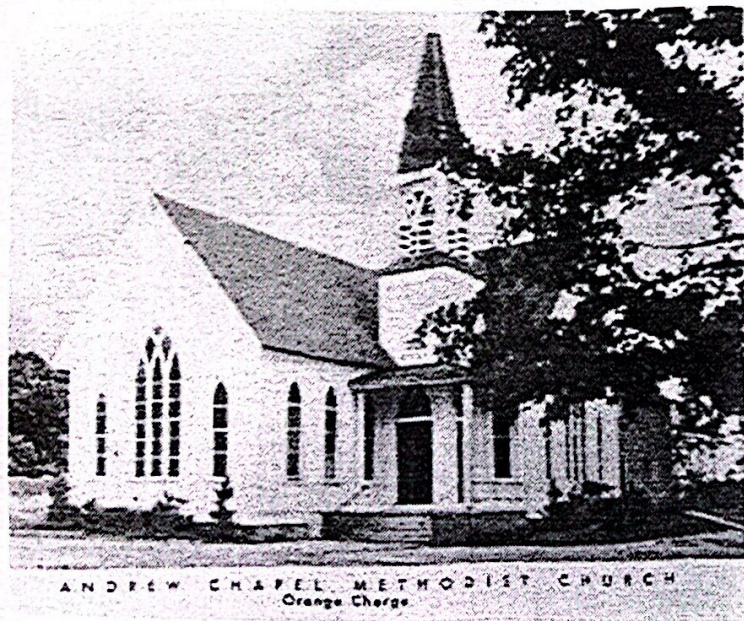


1932



Andrew Chapel Methodist Church  
Orange Charge  
Founded - 1852

1955



ANDREW CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH  
Orange Charge

1960



2001



## Orange Circuit

### 4th Quarterly Conference General State of the Church

Our Sunday Schools are holding their own  
quaintly during the hot summer months, all doing  
very good work.

Our Church League at Woodford deserves special  
mention for their loyalty and continued interest in the  
work.

Both Andrew Chapel & Point have really been blessed  
with a few deep revival meetings. We feel that  
some real good has been accomplished and the  
work in general revived.

There have been added to the Church during the  
quarter the following by vows, Edison Geiger, Abram  
Agnes Hoffe, Rudolph Jacobson, David Oran  
Stunkie, James Hubert Robinson, Pearl Chenis  
& Marion Brooke Morgan, By certificate, Dr D.R.  
Stunkie, Grace Stunkie, Margaret Stunkie, Louise  
Stunkie and Richard Stunkie, Miss Annie Bruggeman...

The following children have been baptized  
Mary, Emma, Nellie, Chas Eugene, Tiller, Billy,  
Crisco, Hannamaker, Blanch, Larina, Wengard,  
Mattie Mae Wengard, Gertrude Wengard, Jub Edward  
Wengard.

Eleven certificates of credit were earned as  
a result of a bookkeeping training class conducted  
at Andrew Chapel by Rev. Geo. H. Day. The class  
while not large in number was really real  
profitable because of the interest shown by  
those attending.

Respectfully Submitted,  
W. M. Mitchum P.C.

July 7, 1929





**Bishop James O. Andrew**



**Rev. Boyce Burman Tyler**  
(1954-1959)



**Rev. Robert Lee McCraw**  
(1961-1965)



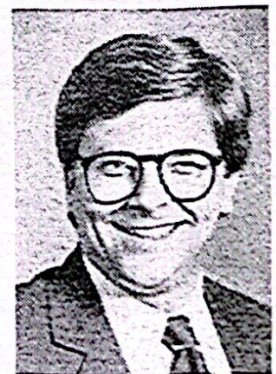
**Rev. James Allen Grigsby**  
(1965-1971)



**Rev. George Dewey Brazill**  
(1971-1975)

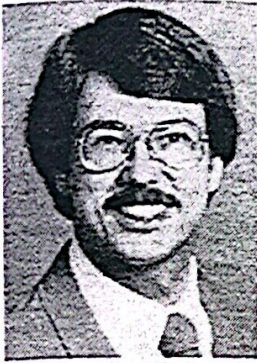


**Rev. Josie Lee Tyler Jr.**  
(1975-1977)



**Rev. Thomas Harmon Norrell**  
(1984-1985)





Rev. Howard Franklin Perry Jr.  
(1985-1986)



Rev. James Herndon Shepherd  
(1986-1987)



Rev. Buster Thornwell Huggins  
(1987-1989)



Rev. Lindsey Eugene Rivers Jr.  
(1989-1993)



Rev. Gary Alan Peterson  
(1993-1994)



Rev. Jack Allen Poole  
(1977-1984)  
(1994- )





Jettie Crider Staley  
Ada Crider Wannamaker  
Lula Crider Matthews



Mrs. Tiney S. Sturkie



Onan Beverly (O. B.) Riley



Olivia Octavia Riley





ANDREW CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 11, 1965 was a very special day for Andrew Chapel Methodist Church. It was not only Palm Sunday but also, the day that thirteen (13) promising, young boys and girls

came forward to indicate that they matured enough spiritually to want to become members of this well-known old church.

Callie Smith, Lucie Wannamaker, Mabel Culclacum and Jettie Staley had assisted in making the sanctuary more beautiful by putting in potted palms and lavender gladioli. They seemed to lend all of the beauty and glory that was within their power, to make this a memorable day.

The Choir composed of Edna Crider, Etta Nelson, Lily Staley, Jany Staley, Johnnie Bruce Saylor, Levia Rucker, Elsie Saylor, Jettie Staley, Palmer Staley, Lucie Wannamaker, and Etta Ott, sang hymns of Praise (with the congregation) accompanied by Jimmy Stunkie, Pianist.

The Rev. Lloyd Bolt was Superintendent of the Lexington District.

The Rev. Robert L. Nelson, Pastor, received the following into the Church on this day 4/11/65. David Elliott (Ded.) Baughman, Dennis Allen (Denny) Baughman, Julia Reid (Jale) Crider, Theodore Albert (Ted) Flake, Ronny Horton Shaw, Betty Alice Shute, William Robert Shute, Deborah Ann Robinson, Marlene Lee Robinson, Bruce Evans Rucker, Daniel Richard Stunkie II, Margaret Brenda Wannamaker, and Margaret Ellen (Marge) Wannamaker.

I have preserved this record and want to share it with you.

I love you all.

Jettie Crider Staley

4/20/80



(This is a typed copy of an article which was published in Living in South Carolina, December 1978)

Andrew Chapel  
125 Years Old And Going Strong  
By Bob Wannamaker

Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church celebrated its 125th anniversary Sunday, October 29, 1978. The historic occasion was marked by over 250 members, former members, pastors, and friends. The Rev. Jack Poole is pastor.

Reviewing the history of this beautiful old church, one might think he is reading a college history book with Andrew Chapel's documented past. The history committee should be proud of the excellent manner in which the past has been captured on paper.

Most historians agree that area churches "in town" were built after arrival of the railroads. This is not the case with Andrew Chapel, which began in 1853. [The church was actually established in December 1851.]

Interior of the church has changed little over the 30 years I remember. The ceiling has been left in the original geometric design with brass kerosene lanterns hanging under glass reflectors, making the chandeliers complement the stained glass windows. The old lanterns have been electrified and they blend well with the indirect modern lighting also offered in the church.

The church has gradually changed its exterior over the years; wood has given way to brick, the stove has been replaced by central heat and air conditioning and the dirt street is now paved. The proud past record of the church is kept up by its faithful members. Grounds and cemetery are wonders of perpetual care. Ancestors can be traced from headstones in this reverent setting around the church building.

Meditating in the comfortable sanctuary of this beautiful old church it is difficult to realize its humble beginning.

The church, deprived in its beginning, now flourishes because of today's conveniences: modern transportation, rural electricity for lights, water and heating and cooling. All these and more to insert new life into an old way of living.

No one ever fully understands why an institution like this still draws people like a magnet year after year. Could it be to remind us of a humble beginning?

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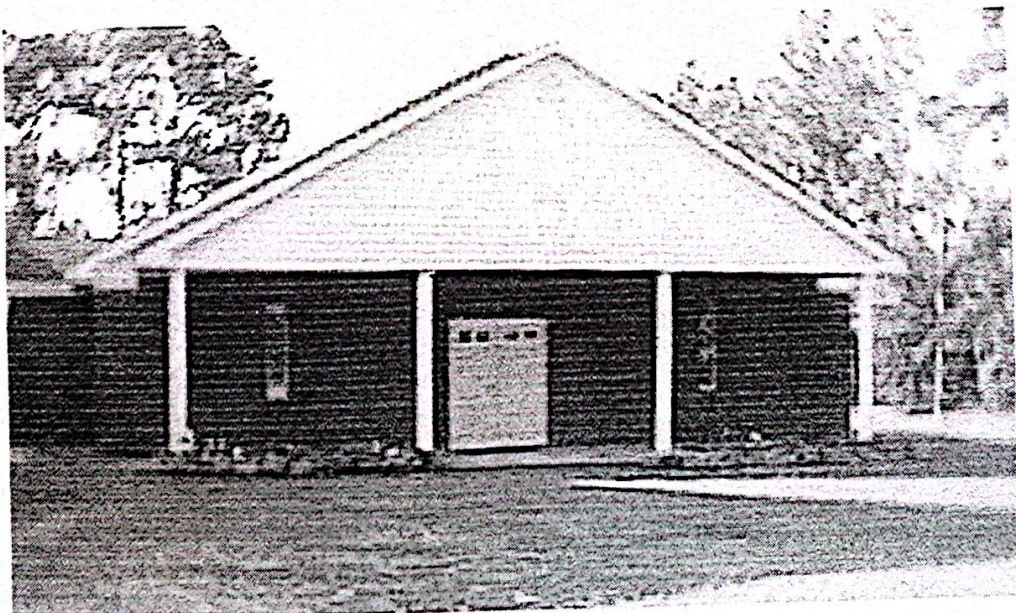
October 29, 1978





**Groundbreaking, Fellowship Building  
1988**

**Lewie Rucker, Rev. Buster Huggins, Rev. Melton Stabler and Rev. Bruce Rucker**



**Fellowship Building  
1991**