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New El Bethel Conway Church History

New El Bethel United Methodist Church, Conway

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NEW EL BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ESTABLISHED 1912

Our church was organized in 1912. The first pastor, Revend A D Betts, held services at Four Mile School House. The church was called El Bethel Episcopal Methodist, South. Pastor Betts rode a bicycle to preach on Sundays at the newly formed church. In 1921, the first church was built on what is now our parking lot, on land donated by Mr. John Dix. The members continued to worship in the original building until 1976 when the new church was completed. The original church building was sold to another church congregation and is still being used as a house of worship in a rural area of Conway.

In 1969, Ms. Orlean Compton sold the congregation one-half acre of land adjoining the church property for the sum of One Dollar for the purpose of building a new church. Construction on the new church began in 1975 by Mishoe Construction Company and concluded in 1976. The Reverend W. B. Love, III was the Pastor during the construction of the church, during which time he and various other members of the congregation helped with the construction of the church. The new church was now called El Bethel United Methodist Church. The first service held in the new church was Homecoming Service on October 30, 1976; with service beginning at 10:00 AM followed by lunch at 12:30 and a song service at 2:00 PM. Reverend J. Clark Hughes, conducted the Homecoming Service. All former pastors, members, and friends were invited to attend.

In 2004, The South Carolina United Methodist Conference made the decision to merge three smaller churches into one. Those smaller churches were: Hebron United Methodist Church in Toddville which is on the National Registry of Historical Places; El Bethel United Methodist Church; and Willow Springs United Methodist Church on Cates Bay Highway, which was organized in 1894. It was decided that Hebron and Willow Springs would be closed and respective memberships would be combined at El Bethel, with the changing of their names to New El Bethel United Methodist Church. The Reverend Sarah Branyon was the presiding pastor at the three churches during the merger.

In 2006, the UMC Conference formed a new charge of New El Bethel United Methodist Church and Brown Swamp United Methodist Church under the leadership of Pastor John Preer. In 2014, Brown Swamp and New El Bethel were separated and a new charge consisting of Antioch United Methodist Church and New El Bethel, under the leadership of Reverend Jim Hyatt was formed. We are currently still on this charge under the leadership of Reverend Dickie Knight and Associate Pastor Darrell Ricketts.

Our church has been located on this corner of Highway 501 for the past 111 years. There have been many who have led and attended this church from the beginning through today. We thank God for all those leaders and congregational members who have helped to make us --The Little Christian Light Shining on the Corner.

WILLOW SPRINGS --

1894	Rev. GS Goodwin
1897	Rev. JF Way
1900	Rev. W F Dukes
1901	Rev. JC Welch
1902	Rev. WW Williams
1903	Rev. FE Hodges
1905	Rev. HL Singleton
1907	Rev. GP Penny
1909	Rev. ON Roundtree
1912	Rev. WR Barnes
	Rev. AD Betts
1915	Rev. WA Youngblood
1918	Rev. WH Perry
1919	Rev. WL Parker
1922	Rev. WL Guy
1923	Rev. LW Sealey
1924	Rev. WL Stalvey
1925	Rev. WH Morrison
1928	Rev. JL Mullinix
1929	Rev. WS Heath
1930	Rev. JR Sojourner
1932	Rev. T Kemmerlin
1935	Rev. WT Bedenbaugh
1938	Rev. F Conley
1939	Rev. RA Berry
1940	Rev. JH Eaddy
1943	Rev. B Doggett
1945	Rev. GA Teasley
1947	Rev. PB McLeod
1948	Rev. Saireo
1950	Rev. RM Tucker
1954	Rev. BM Stokes
1961	Rev. FW Lee
1962	Rev. V Bullock
1964	Rev. Griffith
1965	Rev. V Bullock
1966	Rev. RM Kimrey
1969	Rev. Z Farmer

EL BETHEL/NEW EL BETHEL

1973	Rev. WB Love, III
1977	Rev. JC Hughes
1980	Rev. E & RM Nivens
1982	Rev. J Weisner
1984	Rev. J Franklin
1985	Rev. W Waters
1986	Rev. H Rist
1988	Rev. C Hunsucker
1989	Rev. E George
1993	Rev. TW Atkins
1994	Rev. D Sweatt
1998	Rev. J Cribb
2000	Rev. S Branyon
2005	Rev. J Preer
2009	Rev. N Woods
2014	Rev. J L Hyatt, Jr
2016	Rev. R L Harper
2017	Rev R H Knight
	Rev D Ricketts