

FROM THE SESQUICENTENNIAL PROGRAM FOR MARCH 25

A History Of Wesley Memorial Methodist Church

The Methodist Church of Warrenton, North Carolina, is an achievement of living faith. It had its beginning more than one hundred and fifty years ago when the earliest Methodists worshipped in a small log meetinghouse located on land once owned by Dr. R. S. F. Peete. The lot is marked "143 Church" on the original map of Warrenton which was charted in 1779. To quote Mrs. Montgomery in her SKETCHES OF OLD WARRENTON, "The first church to be organized for church worship was the work of the Methodist denomination." And again, Mrs. Mary Cook Green, daughter of Mrs. Sally Hawkins Marshall Cook, who was a member in 1819, and to whom a memorial window has been placed in the church, tells of her early recollections of Warrenton. She said, "There stood a log house in the midst of a chinquapin thicket in which the small band of Methodist met for worship." In 1775, Reverend Robert Williams held a great revival in Bute (now Warren and Franklin) County. In 1776, a North Carolina Circuit (south of the Roanoke River) was established and three ministers were assigned to this circuit. They were Reverends Edward Dromgoole, Frances Poythress, and Isham Tatum. In 1780, Reverend Francis Asbury preached for a week in Warren County. In April, 1785, the first conference of the Methodist Church, which was organized at Lovely Lane Church, Baltimore, December, 1785, was held at the home of Reverend Green Hill, Bute County, (now Franklin).

ed in the church. In January, 1873, The Methodist Church of Warrenton was taken from a circuit of seven churches and made a station with twenty-two members. Reverend J. D. Adams was presiding secretary. The church remained a station until 1880 when Macon was added. Hebron was placed on the circuit in 1881, and Warren Plains was added in 1890. During the ministry of Reverend J. N. Cole, 1888-90, T. L. H. Young, R. B. Boyd, Jerre Draper, C. A. Cook, Peter Allen, W. H. Baugham and Hugh J. White were appointed to "mend the roof of the church or buy another lot and build a new church." They purchased lots 73 and 74 on the south of "Old Eaton Place," then owned by W. P. Baugham, and there erected a brick church. The first sermon in the new church was preached by the pastor, Reverend Alpheus McCullen on April 8, 1894 from the text in Matthew 22:42 "What think ye of Christ?" The church was dedicated as "Wesley Memorial" by Bishop A. W. Wilson, November 25, 1894. He preached from the text found in Hebrews 8:5 on the subject, "Pattern on the Mount." In 1924-25, the Education Building was planned, with Reverend H. B. Porter as minister, and the following building committee: W. H. Dameron, C. H. Peete, M. D. W. N. Boyd, Edmund White, R. B. Boyd, Jr. This building was completed in 1927 during the ministry of Reverend B. P. Robinson.

program took an unexpected turn when George G. Allen gave \$30,500.00 with which to purchase the "Old Eaton Place" for a parsonage. With funds received from the sale of the old parsonage, together with money contributed by the members of the church, the "Old Eaton Place" was renovated and remodeled. Its beautiful furnishings were the gift of Mrs. George G. Allen, and to honor her the parsonage was named the "Mary Burwell Allen Parsonage." The legal details were worked out during the ministry of Reverend L. C. Vereen. The remodeling took place under the ministry of Rev. H. L. Davis. Wesley Memorial became a station for the second time on July 2, 1955. Earlier in this same year, the church building program came to life again with a generous and unsolicited gift from George G. Allen who was interested in rebuilding the church at the earliest possible time. The congregation gratefully accepted this

challenge, put on a drive for an additional \$20,000.00, and authorized the building committee, W. E. Perry, Jr., Miss Anne Burwell, Mrs. Claude Bowers, Mrs. Julius Banzet, H. M. Hardy, Graham Horne, and C. H. Peete, M. D., to proceed with plans. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on the afternoon of Sunday, June 12, 1955, and the following week the work on the new church began. During the period of construction, George G. Allen and Wright Tisdale gave financial support to complete the program, free of any indebtedness. The dream had come true and Wesley Memorial congregation, on Easter Sunday, 1956, held its first service in the beautiful and worshipping church. The gratitude of the congregation was expressed in the "Easter Offering for Others" in the amount of \$800.00 which was used for mission special. By this offering was generally agreed to renovate, renovating, Tisdale being interested and to completely renovate and decorate the entire building and to install both a heat-

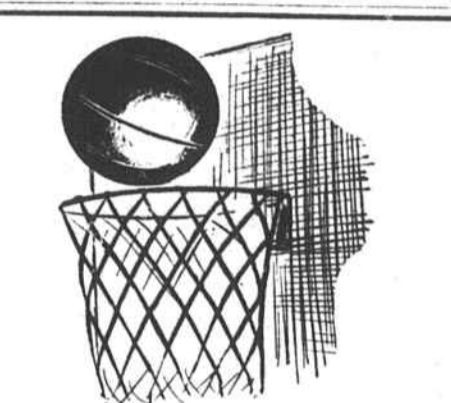


The small church grew steadily and soon outgrew the limited facilities of the early building; so, on October 6, 1817, lot 92, as shown on the original map of Warrenton, was bought from John Snow and deeded to the following trustees: Henry G. Williams, Hill Jones, Henry Fitts, William Twitty, William Ruffin, Richard Boyd, and Richard Davidson. Upon this corner lot, now the property of Mrs. H. L. Falkner, was constructed a frame church. Many distinguished ministers preached in this church. Among them may be mentioned the Reverend Thomas G. Lowe, Dr. Charles Deems, founder of the Church of the Stranger in New York, Dr. Closs, Mr. Moran, and Dr. R. O. Burton, to whom a memorial window has been plac-

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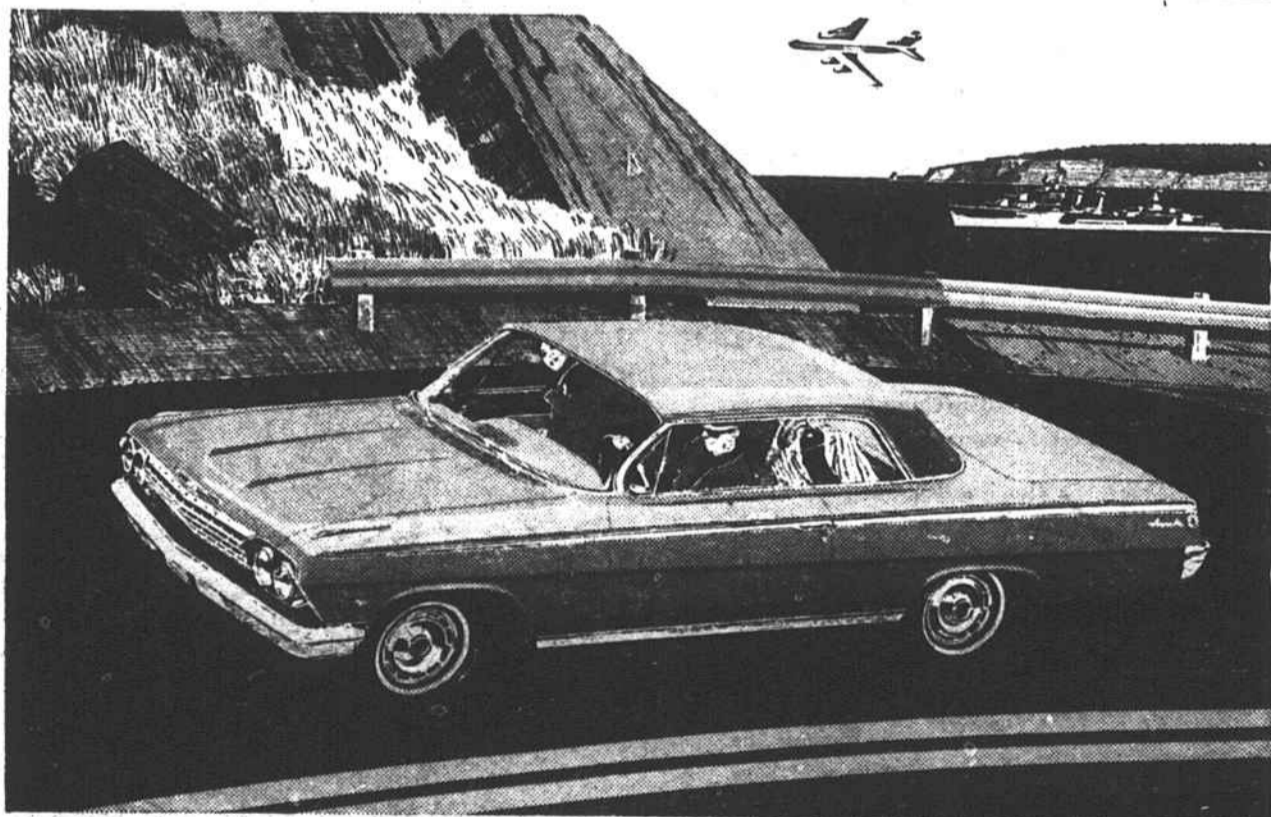


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