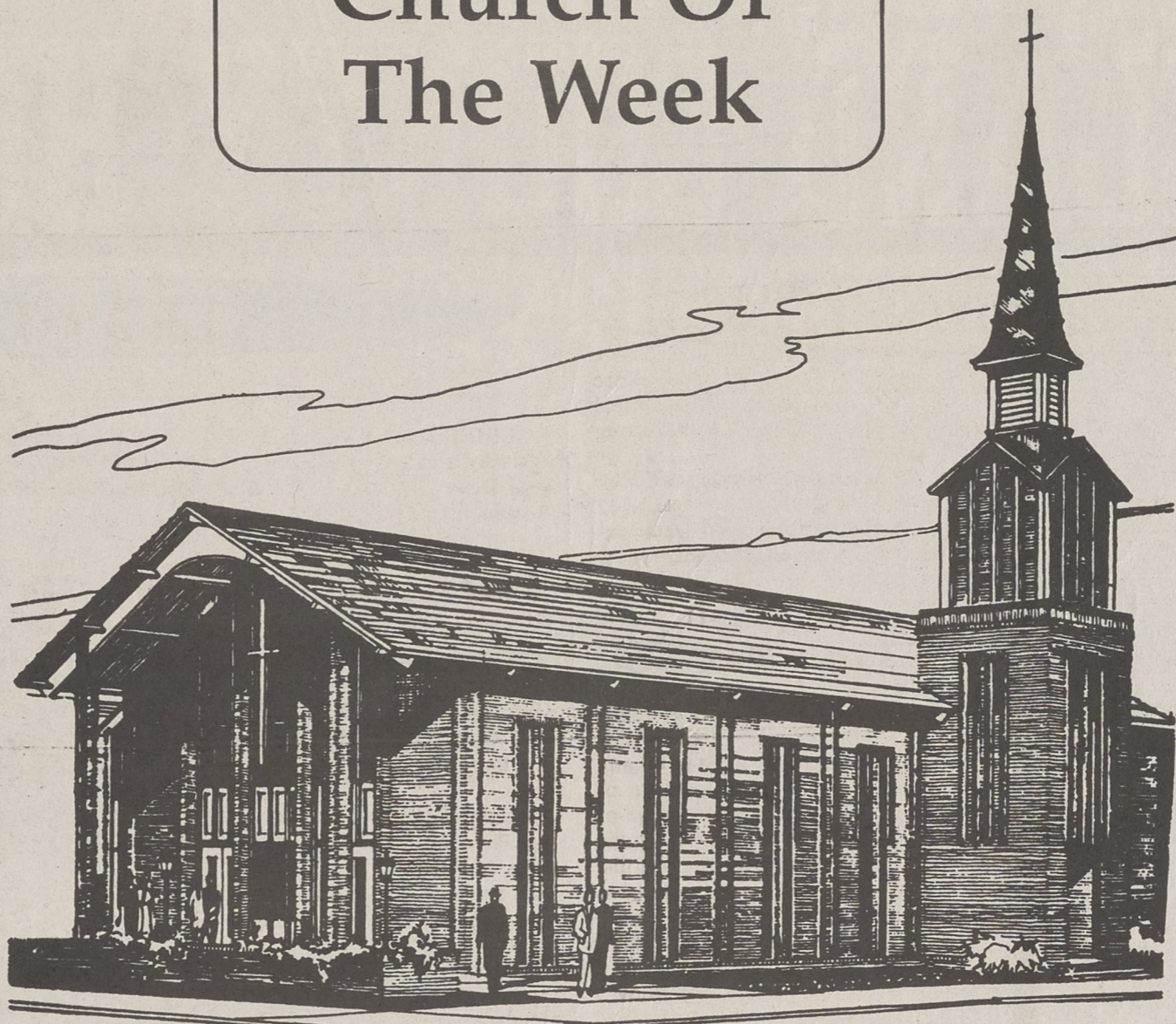


Church Of The Week

Central United Methodist Church, area pastors and these sponsoring firms invite you to attend the church of your choice regularly...



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Central United Methodist Church

Piedmont Avenue at Mountain Street
Kings Mountain, North Carolina

ROBERT W. LITTLE, MINISTER

In the midst of struggle and progress, in the heart of the Carolina Industrial Piedmont, the year 1874 was a year of note for the organization and state chartering of the city of Kings Mountain and for the organization of Central Methodist church under the leadership of the Reverend J.W. North, a native of South Carolina.

In the early 1870's I. Walton Garrett and family, Richard Garrett and family, Captain and Mrs. R.S. Sugg, and Bennett R. Willieford came from Edgecomb County to make their home in this sparsely-settled village. They bought property and erected their homes and store buildings. The Garretts operated a general merchandise store; while Captain Sugg ran a drug store. The Garretts also bought large tracts of nearby mountain land.

Being of the Methodist faith, these newcomers attended services at El Bethel, the nearest church of that denomination, located some few miles from Kings Mountain. Since they were establishing permanent homes, they saw the necessity for a church in their immediate locality. An organization was effected, early in 1874, with the following charter members: Dr. and Mrs. James Wright Tracy, who were pioneer settlers and up to that time members of El Bethel Church. I. Walton Garrett and wife, Richard Garrett and wife, Mrs. R.S. Sugg, and Bennett R. Willieford.

Others were soon added. This small group completed their first spiritual home, a one-room frame building which stood on the north west corner of Piedmont Avenue and Mountain Street. This building served as a place of worship and study for nearly thirty years. In the spirit of true brotherhood, the doors of the old frame church were thrown open to other congregations who had organized but at the time had no church building of their own.

During the pastorate of the Reverend George D. Herman, 1900-1903, definite steps were taken toward securing a larger lot and building that would more adequately meet the needs of a growing congregation and Sunday School.

In 1905 the second Central Church building, a stately Gothic structure, was erected. The old church property was sold to the Presbyterian congregation; the parsonage property which was located on West Mountain Street was retained for a period of time.

On September 13, 1953, a ground breaking service was held for the erection of an educational building. This building, completed in the summer of 1954, was furnished throughout, and opened for use in January of 1955.

The new sanctuary was completed on June 9, 1967, and the first Service of Worship was held on June 11, 1967.

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J.R. Betts.....1887
S.B. Turrentine.....1888-89

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D.H. Comann.....1898-99
G.D. Herman.....1900-03
M.H. Vestal.....1904
G.F. Kirby.....1905-06
E.G. Kilgore.....1907

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M.B. Clegg.....1910-13
E.O. Cole.....1914-15
R.M. Hoyle.....1916
R.A. Swaringen.....1917
E.L. Kirk.....1918-20
R.M. Hoyle.....1921-23
J.E. Thompson.....1924
O.P. Ader.....1925-27
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E.W. Fox.....1935-38

Henry C. Sprinkle, Jr.....1939
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