

Central United Methodist Church - Today

Central's First Century

(From page 1B)

The Rev. Howard R. Jor dan, sensing the dedicated determination of the congregation, recommended a planning committee be ap-pointed by the Official Board. After some months of evaluation and prayerful thought their recom-mendation for a new sanctuary with the approval of the congregation, was accepted. The "Go Signal" had been given, the Building Committee, the Building Fund Committee, the Memorial Gifts Committee, all were steps of progress by the Of-ficial Board for a new sanctuary

The Architect joined B.S. Feeler, Jr., Chairman of the Building Committee, and the hours of loving labor, they brought forth plans which were approved by the Official Paged control of the state of the Board and accepted by the congregation. The hour was nigh. A

temporary sanctuary was set up in the Fellowship Hall. The dismantling of the old sance tuary began July 4, 1966, and was completed Aug. 12, 1966. The date for the beginning of construction of the new sanctuary was Aug. 15, 1966. As the members passed the corner of Mountain St. and Piedmont Ave, while the old senctuary was being temoved, there was a note of sadness in their hearts as they remembered both the joys and sorrows experienced in their spiritual home those years past. As the new sanctuary took shape this nostalgia was succeeded by a feeling of pride and determination to build more strongly for the future upon the firm foundation of the past. Many memorial and honorarium gifts began to come in and special plaques are set aside in the narthex of the sanctuary in loving recognition of this devotion. This is not the whole story hy any means. So many within the congregation and friends, far and near, are unlisted and will go unsung. Their prayers have been answered, their joys realized and their dream

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has come true. So unselfishly have they sacrificed, it seems the only description available might be: "Here is the House God, mortared together with the great cement of the Holy Spirit."

The new sanctuary was completed June 9, 1967, and the first worship service was held June 11, 1967. On Oct. 29, 1967 the service of consecration was held, under the guidance of the pastor, the Rev. D.B. Alderman. Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., delivered the sermon; Dr. Charles D. White, Superintendent of the Gastonia District, the Rev. James B. McLarty and the $R \in v$. Howard R. Jordan, for mer pastors of Central Church, and others assisted in the service.

As we, the members of Central Church, assess the

accomplishments have been made. We view these with humble gratitude and look forward with courage and vision to new horizons in the great spirit of Christ's love. Now an efficient Ad-ministrative Board, a number of younger men of the church,

assists the pastor in the total work of the church. Worship services, the United Methodist Youth, and

effectiveness of our labors in Christ under the capable leadership of the Rev. R. Paschal Waugh, we believe we have cause for rejoicing. Great financial strides have been made in the church. During February and March of 1972 a very successful Financial Crusade was held. A goal of \$256,000, to include current budget and building fund indebtedness over the following 33 months, was almost all pledged. Figures from Conference Journals reveal a most interesting story. For the three years just prior to the year in which the Financial Crusade was held the church paid annually \$14,400 toward the debt liquidation. The following three conference years reveal the following figures: June 1, 1971 through May 31, 1972 \$20,400 paid; June 1, 1972 through Dec. 31, 1972 (a sevenmonths conference year) \$26,124; Jan. 1, 1973 through

Dec. 31, 1973 \$37,200 Although the above figures are most encouraging, they, by no mens, give the whole picture of progress being made at Central Methodist. With a definite feeling of spiritual growth, a sharp increase in church membership and a beautiful sanctuary well on the way to being debt free,

other regular services are held each Sunday morning and evening, and a mid-week prayer service on Wednesday evening Regular meetings are held for the active organizational structure of the church as follows: Administrative Board, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth, Methodist Men, organized in 1961, commissions and committees. senior choir, children's choir, Council on Ministries, etc. The above is a brief chronicle of Central Methodist Church, in so far as we are

able to compile, but no figures can be given to tell in full the accomplishment and farreaching influence of this church during a period of a century. This record can only be found in the "Archives on High." The sermons by the pastors and prayers of the saints can never be gathered and given a place in the continuing sacred drama, though they live on in lives made better and in the hearts and songs of the redeemed around the throne of God. The early leaders, and so many who came after, have had hearts burning with a passion for advancing the Kingdom of God and have asked no more reward than souls won for Christ.

(NOTE: For much of the information contained in this historical sketch your historian is deeply indebted to a previous publication for Central United Methodist Church, dated Oct. 29, 1967 and compiled by the Rev. D.B. Alderman. In addition my sincere appreciation is ex-tended to the following per-

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