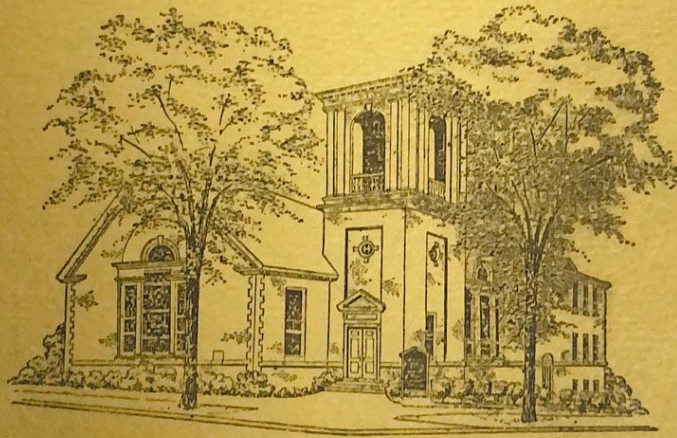


Trinity United Methodist Church

Phenix City, Alabama



A BRIEF HISTORY

1872 - 1972

H I S T O R Y

of the

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Phenix City, Alabama

1872 - 1972

Compiled By

Ford Duncan

This brief history of the Trinity United Methodist Church is dedicated to its members and friends both past and present, who through their labors of love have contributed of their time and efforts in building not only a beautiful church structure but also a church spirit that has been instrumental in spreading Christ's message throughout this community.

## P R E F A C E

This brief history of the Trinity United Methodist Church of Phenix City has been compiled and published in conjunction with the observance of the First Centennial Anniversary of the church. It is by no means to be considered complete or official. The information contained within these pages was obtained from Church records and from discussions with individuals. There may be errors due to incomplete or inaccurate records. If you should detect any errors please make a note of them and bring them to our attention.

The need for brevity precludes the recognition of many who have labored willingly and faithfully in their services to Trinity as Stewards, Trustees, Sunday School Officers and Teachers, and officers of the various church organizations. Hopefully, a more comprehensive history of the church will someday be compiled not only to preserve a written account of the events in the life of the church for future generations, but also to serve as a testimonial to all those who have given so unselfishly of themselves in their service to Trinity Church

## CONTENTS

Dedication.....	ii
Preface.....	iii
History.....	1
Woman's Society of Christian Service.....	18
Wesleyan Service Guild.....	20
Methodist Men's Club.....	22
Roll of Pastors.....	23
Members Entering Ministry.....	24
Official Directory.....	25
Roll of Members.....	27

## HISTORY

Churches, like individuals, have birthdays. While the exact month and day is not known, The Trinity United Methodist Church of Phenix City looks to the year 1872 as the date of its birth as an organization. Even before this time, the influence of Methodism had reached into this area. There were probably several Methodist Churches in this vicinity in those days. One of these was the Seale United Methodist Church which was originated about 1842 and another was The First United Methodist Church of Phenix City, which was first established in the 1830's. In the years before 1870 there also was a congregation in Columbus, Georgia known as The Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. About the year 1870 this congregation was organized into two churches. One of these became the old Broad Street Church in Columbus and the other moved to Phenix City, then known as Brownsville. Both churches at that time were under the jurisdiction of the South Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church. No doubt it was from this church in Brownsville that Trinity United Methodist Church came into being in 1872 with the following fifteen charter members:

Thomas G. Cochran	Mrs. Amanda Moore
Mrs. Julia Cochran	Mrs. Cassie Moore
Mrs. Harriett Eason	Miss Sarah Pittman
Miss Georgia Freeman	Mrs. Elizabeth Posey
Mrs. Amanda Griffith	W. H. Walker
Mrs. Sarah E. Kelley	Mrs. Sarah C. Waller
Mrs. Melvin McCollister	Mrs. S. J. Young

Some of the present members of Trinity are direct decendents of these charter members.

There is little written history and practically no records available concerning the church prior to 1900. It was in that year the present system of recording minutes of the Quarterly Conference was begun. Most of these records are on file in the church office. The Reverend S.N. Tucker was the first pastor appointed to Trinity by the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Church. A complete list of the forty-four pastors who have served at Trinity can be found in another section of this document. As for the first church building, a simple one room frame structure was probably erected in the early 1870's. This first building was remodeled and enlarged under the pastorate of the Reverend J.B. Cummings estimated to be during the late 1880's. Right after the turn of the century. The church was remodeled and repaired during the pastorate of the Reverend I.F. Bilbro. It was still, however, just a one room frame structure. The pulpit at that time was located approximately where it is today, but there was no choir loft nor Sunday School rooms to the rear of it, only windows. The entrances to the church were double doors on the south side, or Sixteenth Street side of the building and double doors on the north side or the side that now faces the former location of the First Baptist Church. At this time, a small steeple adorned the top of the church near the Sixteenth Street entrance. It was estimated by Mr. Otis Richards to be no more than ten feet in height. The steeple contained a bell that was used to toll the announcement of all church services. The bell from that steeple is the same one we use today in our bell tower.

It seems that at one time there was a small frame one room private school situated adjacent to the church. There were probably others, but a Mr. Albright is remembered as a teacher at the school. We have been told that about 1878, two of the pupils

in the school were Elvena and Berto Cone. Mr. Albright was the father-in-law of Judge T. Hicks Fort of Columbus. The classrooms in the school were formed by using curtains as partitions. This was also the method used by the Church Sunday School for their classrooms. The Men's Bible Class, at one time, built a small building to the rear of the church for use as a classroom. This, however, was later removed.

The first available Quarterly Conference records, dated January 14, 1900, lists Trinity as being in the Eufaula District of the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. There were 437 members in the church and the building was valued at \$2000 and the parsonage at \$1500. It was recorded that the pastor had been paid \$504.85 during the year 1899. The members of the Quarterly Conference were: I.F. Bilbro, H. Baird, W.L. Booth, W. F. Randall, John Rutledge, James Pearce, H. Summerville, G. F. Amerson, James Herricks, J.D. Kinnett, W. L. Harrell, J.O. Albright, R.W. Middleton, W.H. Adams, and T. W. Harrison. In his written report for the quarter, the pastor reported that the Epworth League had been reorganized with a membership of thirty two. The Epworth League was the fore runner of the present United Methodist Youth Fellowship and usually consisted of a senior league for older youth and a junior league for the intermediate ages. Further on in his report, Reverend Bilbro related, "We have one Sunday School, well officered, and doing good work. A large number of children are in the exercise every Sabbath morning, and we are laboring to impress their minds with the great truths of the word." There were 183 Sunday School members reported for this quarter. Reverend Bilbro seemed to have enjoyed a highly successful four year pastorate at Trinity. Those who remember him recall that he was a very sincere and dedicated minister who preached very inspirational and emotional sermons. When his pastorate at Trinity came to an end in 1903, he had received almost 300 members into the church.



Church records for the years 1904-1909 have not been located. It appears, however, that considerable progress was made during these years as the record for January 10, 1910 shows that the membership had reached 809. The Reverend H.D. Strout was the pastor and his salary was listed as \$1000.00. There apparently had been considerable improvements made on the church building as it was now valued at \$5000.00. The minutes of the Quarterly Conference of February 6, 1911 reflect that three members of the church had been received on trial as ministers, the Reverend A. L. Lumpkin and Reverend S.B. Strout in the Alabama Conference and the Reverend D.A. Cook in this Quarterly Conference. Another action of this Quarterly Conference was the donation of old church pews to the North Girard Methodist Church. Records are incomplete concerning the North Girard Church, but it is believed to have begun as a mission church from Trinity. It was also on the same charge as Trinity and on at least one occasion the Quarterly Conference for the Trinity/North Girard charge was held at the latter church. A notation in the July 19, 1925 minutes states, "We have organized a Sunday School at North Girard, Bro. Raleigh Strickland, Superintendent. Our young ministers are taking an active part in the work at Girard as they do in Trinity, their home church. The attendance is increasing. We have a splendid prayer meeting there conducted by our young ministers."

The Girard Church was a one-room frame structure situated on the Northeast corner of the intersection of Thirteenth Street and Tenth Avenue. The church was evidently dissolved in 1927 as the minutes for the Quarterly Conference of March 27 of that year authorizes a committee to sell the North Girard property for \$2500.00 and they also show that sixty members from North Girard Church were received into the membership of Trinity.

The records for the years 1911 through about 1920 did not reveal any significant information concerning the church. The ministers serving during this period were:

Reverends J.W. Hamner, T.P. Fincher, Norman McLeod J.P. Roberts, John H. Williams, H. Lisenby, J.P. Daughtry and M.J. Bouterse. The Reverend Fincher passed away while serving at Trinity in the early part of 1913 and the Reverend McLeod was appointed to serve until another pastor was appointed by the Annual Conference later in the year. In one of his reports concerning the poor Sunday School attendance, Reverend McLeod stated that "A Sunday snooze is more comfortable than arousement for Sunday School." Some improvements were made on the church and parsonage during these years but the property value remained about the same. By 1918, the membership had again been reduced to about 500. No records are available for 1919 and 1920.

On August 12, 1920, the Reverend J.M. Glenn arrived to embark upon what proved to be two very fruitful years at Trinity. He became well loved by the congregation and this was reflected in all phases of the life of the church. In the first three months he made 253 pastoral visits to homes and later, in the year ending November 9, 1922, he made over 1700 pastoral visits, a truly remarkable record. These visits were in addition to those to hospitals and schools. During this same period of time 170 members were received into the church. Under Reverend Glenn's guidance the Sunday School grew by leaps and bounds and the attendance reached 398 one Sunday during the quarter. This total surpassed all attendance records in the history of the church.

Reverend Glenn was also instrumental in having a furnace installed in the church. Prior to this time the church had been heated in the winter by coal stoves. One of those who kept the fires burning in the winter was Mrs. Lizzie West, mother of Mrs. Alvin Kinney. Mrs. West was also well known for the apron and bonnet she usually wore to church and her enthusiastic participation in the worship services.

When Reverend Glenn completed his assignment at Trinity, the church had 640 members and the various improvements to the property during his tenure had resulted in the church being valued at \$8000.00 and the parsonage located adjacent to the church, valued at \$5000.00. The pastor's salary had reached an all time high, to that time, of \$2000.00. During the 1922 conference year Trinity had been placed under the jurisdiction of the Opelika District of the Alabama Conference, but in 1923 it was returned to the Eufaula District.

With the continued growth and prosperity that Trinity had enjoyed in the preceding years, it was becoming more and more evident that the existing facilities were inadequate to meet the needs of the congregation. This need was apparently very much in the minds of the members as the Quarterly Conference records for January 7, 1923 states "Our plan for future is to project a building campaign." Later an application was made to the Board of Church Extension of the Alabama Conference for a loan or a donation to help in the building project. At a called session of the Quarterly Conference held November 11, 1923, the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved that the Board of Trustees (or a majority of them) of Trinity Me. Church South are hereby authorized and empowered to borrow money or accept a conditional donation or both, from the Alabama Conference Board of Church Extension not exceeding the sum of \$3000.00 both for the purpose of brick veneering present building and adding Sunday School annex and to secure the repayment of the same by mortgage upon the property held in trust by and upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between said trustees or a majority and said Board of Church Extension." For reasons unknown, nothing was accomplished on the building project during the next few years, but there were several entries in the records concerning the need for Sunday School rooms.

Finally, on January 14, 1927, under the leadership of The Reverend J.M. Truett the building program got underway when a resolution was passed by the Quarterly Conference appointing a building committee and

empowering it to transact all business necessary to either remodel, rebuild, or build Trinity Methodist Church on its present site. The members of this committee were Homer D. Cobb, chairman, L.P. Stough, secretary, Mrs. Effie Hancox, Treasurer and O.D. Richards, J.W. Anthony and Dr. R.S. Watkins. This committee was authorized to borrow \$8000.00 and accept a donation of \$2000.00 from the Board of Church Extension. Apparently construction soon got underway as the minutes of the Quarterly Conference for March 26, 1927 contain this entry: "We are repairing and enlarging Trinity Church which will enable us to care for, adequately our members from North Girard and take care of our membership as it grows." The building program was completed later in 1927 and the result was one of the most beautiful churches in the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Church. In addition to completely renovating and beautifying the sanctuary of the church, Sunday School rooms were added and the exterior of the church was brick veneered. The architect of this renovation was T. F. Lockwood of Columbus Georgia.

A significant event in the life of Trinity occurred in 1928. For the first time in the history of the church, the annual session of The Alabama Conference was held here with Bishop Hoyt M. Dobbs presiding. The District Superintendent, or Presiding Elder as they were then known, was The Reverend D.P. Slaughter. The conference in 1928 was a six-day session beginning on Wednesday, November 26 and ending the following Wednesday, December 1. The ministers attending the conference went throughout the cities of Columbus and Phenix City to fill the pulpits of churches of various denominations on Sunday of that week. By a rising vote, the conference adopted a resolution of thanks, expressing "appreciation of the cordial and lavish entertainment accorded us by Rev. J.M. Truett and our people of Trinity Church.....and to the Central High School for the sumptuous dinner and entertainment Friday evening."

The Quarterly Conference minutes for January 19, 1930 do not specify the amount of indebtedness on the church as a result of the building project in 1927, but they do contain this entry: "We are planning to raise the amount necessary to transfer our church debt from the Life and Casualty of Tennessee to the Board of Church Extension." The minutes for February 1, 1931 reflect an indebtedness of \$18,900 and the minutes of May 10 reveal that the church indebtedness had, in fact been transferred to the Board of Church Extension. By February 14, 1932 this indebtedness had been reduced to \$14,000.00. Then came the years of the depression. Many families had barely enough money to feed and clothe its members. Some did not even have funds for the bare necessities. Needless to say, the church financial obligations were slow to be paid. This situation prevailed throughout most of the 1930's and when the Reverend R.J. Haskew arrived to assume the pastorate of Trinity in the latter days of 1938, he found the church still owing over \$9,000.00. He immediately began a concentrated effort to erase this indebtedness and by April 30, 1939 had succeeded in raising sufficient funds to reduce the amount owed to \$6,255.00. By December, 1939 all debts of the church had been completely paid.

The paying of the church indebtedness was not something that just happened. It was accomplished through a lot of hard work and sacrifices on the part of the membership. Probably more significant that the lifting of this financial burden, was the fact that the people became more united than ever before. They seemed to have been given new hope and increased spiritual vigor. This was very much evident during a revival during the year. Several times there were over 600 in attendance and the average attendance during the two week meeting was around 400. Forty four new members were received during the revival and by the end of the conference year Trinity had welcomed 116 new members to her midst. The budget for the succeeding year was the largest in the history of the church to that time, and sufficient pledges were received to more than cover the amount needed. As Reverend Haskew noted in his report to the conference, "This is a new church in the dawn of a new day in Phenix City, Alabama."

In December, 1939 Reverend Haskew reported to the Quarterly Conference that the church's plans for 1940 included paying a \$1400.00 paving debt that had recently been incurred, building a new parsonage, and doing whatever repairs considered necessary on the church building. By July, 1940 the paving debt had been paid in full and by the end of the year a new roof had been put on the church at a cost of \$1687.00. Trinity had been placed in the Troy District in 1931 and in 1941, ten years later, a realignment of some churches found it placed in the Montgomery District. The highlight of the 1941 church year had to be the dedication of the church on July 27. It was on that Sunday morning that Bishop J.L. DeCell, then the presiding Bishop of the Birmingham area, preached the sermon of dedication. At the close of the service the mortgages on the church buildings were burned. Mr. Homer D. Cobb, Sr., chairman of the Board of Trustees, set fire to the first mortgage paper and placed it on a platter held by Reverend Haskew. Others laid more papers and bills on the flames until all mortgages and bills connected with the church obligation were consumed.

An interesting entry in the Quarterly Conference record of October 5, 1941 tells of the purchase of a parsonage by the church. This property was located at 2208 11th Avenue, next to Summerville Elementary School, and cost \$3097.00. A down payment of \$1000.00 was made with the balance to be paid in monthly installments of \$27.75. The church had been renting this property previously. It is believed that this was the first time the church parsonage had ever been located anywhere but on the property adjacent to the church. A few months later, in January, 1942, Reverend Haskew stated that the church had hopes to pay for the new parsonage before the end of the year and to possibly repair the old parsonage for use by the Woman's Society of Christian Service. He also reported that in his first three years at Trinity 221 names had been added to the church roll which now totalled 659 members.

By September 1942 the church had finished paying for the parsonage and once again was free of indebtedness. The United States had now become fully committed in World War II both in Europe and the Pacific. Many of Trinity's men were being called into service and by the war's end, at least 75 had served in the defense of their country. Two of these, William Meadows and Robert Nix, were killed in action during this conflict.

The Reverend R.J. Haskew completed four very successful years as the pastor at Trinity on November 11, 1942 and was appointed District Superintendent of the Demopolis District. The Reverend T.C. Casady was assigned to fill the pastorate at Trinity. In his first report to the Quarterly Conference he stated that he had "found the church in good working order as a result of the faithful and efficient work of Brother Haskew." Reverend Casady was a very dedicated and hard working minister. In his first three months in Phenix City he preached twenty sermons, conducted ten prayer services, preached on the radio nine times, spoke at three schools and the USO, and made 190 pastoral visits to members homes. Throughout Reverend Casady's two year tenure as a minister at Trinity, the church continued to grow both in numbers and in spirit. He had made over 1500 pastoral calls as well as conducting services and performing a myriad of ministerial tasks. When Reverend Casady completed his pastorate at Trinity, the membership had reached almost 700 and the pastor's salary was \$3000.00.

Succeeding the Reverend Casady as pastor at Trinity was the Reverend H.P. Mathison. Reverend Mathison continued the excellent ministry the church had enjoyed for many years and all phases of the church work progressed very well. The membership increased to over 900 and a corresponding growth was experienced in the Sunday School. The value of the church building had now increased to \$80,000.00 and the parsonage value was \$11,000.00. For the second time in its history,

Trinity was honored, in 1947, to host the Alabama Annual Conference of the Methodist Church. The conference was held August 26 through August 30, 1947 with Bishop Costen J. Harrell, Bishop of the Birmingham area presiding. At this time Trinity was again in the Troy District and the Superintendent was the Reverend W.E. Middlebrooks.

In preparation for hosting the annual conference in 1947, the officials of Trinity decided it would be a good time to have some work done on the church. The building was redecorated, a new modern heating system was installed, and a new pipe organ was installed. The procurement of the organ is a story within itself. It seems that many of the officials did not feel that the church could afford the cost of a new organ at that time. There were a few individuals, however, who felt the church needed an organ at this time and could find a way to pay for one. Mr. Otis Richards was one of these. He and several other people got together one day and journeyed to Montgomery, Alabama to look at an organ that had recently been installed in one of the Methodist Churches there. They were very much impressed with what they saw and heard and upon their return to Phenix City, they were instrumental in convincing the officials at Trinity that the church needed an organ like the one in Montgomery. The cost of the organ was \$6300.00. When it arrived at the church, it was accompanied by a bill that was paid by personal donations, solicitation of individuals and businesses throughout Columbus and Phenix City to help .

On the first Sunday morning after the new organ was installed and ready for use, Mrs. Gladys Newman who was the organist at St. Paul Methodist Church in Columbus came and played for the service. Mrs. Boyd, a soloist in that same church sang for the congregation. Mrs. Newman had been very helpful in assisting the committee from Trinity in the selection of the



features for the organ which were best suited for the size and construction of the sanctuary. The organ was completely paid for in one year. A special effort was made to collect the remaining funds needed so that the Reverend H.P. Mathison could dedicate the organ before his pastorate at Trinity ended. The necessary amount was raised, the organ paid for, and dedication services were held on September 12, 1948.

On Sunday, September 19, 1948, the pulpit at Trinity Church was again filled by the Reverend R.J. Haskew, the only minister ever to be assigned to pastor the church a second time. Under his guidance, seven new Sunday School rooms for the Children's Division were completed at a cost of \$1833.00, utilizing previously open space in the basement. The Sunday School attendance had continued to increase and on Easter Sunday in 1949 there were 351 present. Reverend Haskew set out to purge the church rolls and after several months effort arrived at an accurate membership count of 818. All activities of the church seemed to be working well and progressing throughout the remainder of 1949 and into 1950. The attendance increased and along with it a corresponding increase in collections. The Sunday School seemed to be thriving and on Easter Sunday, 1950 there were 401 present.

In the Spring of 1950 the church voted to purchase two houses at the rear of the church. These houses faced Fourth Avenue and it was decided that this property should be purchased in order to provide room for expansion. The cost of the two parcels was \$4,777. The Annual Conference session dates were changed beginning this year from the Fall of the year to the Spring. The Sunday School attendance had steadily increased and it was reported to the Quarterly Conference of November 1, 1950 that the average attendance for the previous five months had been 305, an all time record for a similar period of time. There was a critical need for additional Sunday School rooms and a concerted effort was begun to raise the necessary

funds to add an educational building to the church. This effort was aided greatly by a donation of \$5000.00 to the building fund. One of the houses behind the church had been completely paid for and progress was being made to pay for the other one.

By November, 1951 the building fund contained \$7,919.00, and by March, 1952 it had swelled to \$10,000.00. The church voted to have plans and estimates made for the addition to the church building to be presented to The District Board of Church Location and Building for its approval. Plans called for erecting the first story of the addition for a cost of approximately \$10,000.00. In May of 1952 it was reported that the other house behind the church had been paid for and both houses were sold for \$800.00 and removed from the lots. The estimated cost of the first story to be \$25,000.00. At this time there was \$12,000.00 in the building fund. Although all legal requirements had been met, the new construction had not gotten underway by March, 1954 and there was \$16,000.00 in the building fund.

On June 1, 1954 the Reverend R.J. Haskew ended his second pastorate at Trinity Church after six years of faithful and dedicated service. These six years and four years he served earlier gave him a total of ten years at Trinity. This date also marked his retirement from the ministry after more than forty years as a Methodist minister. In his final report to the Quarterly Conference, Reverend Haskew has this to say. "This retiring pastor sincerely thanks our heavenly Father for the privilege of serving Trinity Church for 10 years and he is also deeply grateful to the many christian people who have prayed and helped." I'm sure many people are deeply grateful to this man who prayed for them and helped them in finding Christ.

Succeeding Reverend Haskew as pastor at Trinity Church was the Reverend W.S. Guice who served for

one year. The building program still had not got underway when he ended his pastorate in 1955. The fund now contained over \$17,000.00. Arriving in June, 1955 to begin a three year pastorate at Trinity was the Reverend Lamar Spencer. Reverend Spencer's first year at Trinity saw a continuation of the fine spirit of cooperation and progress that had been enjoyed for the past several years. The membership and Sunday School enrollment remained about the same, the value of the church, parsonage and other property was now \$220,000.00, and the building fund contained \$18,500.00.

An extensive renovation of the church was accomplished in 1956 and 1957 at a cost of several thousand dollars. Repairs were made wherever needed both the interior and exterior of the church was painted, the sanctuary was rewired and new lighting fixtures were installed, and the outside of the parsonage was painted. These improvements were paid for with funds raised specifically for this purpose and were not taken from the general fund or building fund. By April of 1957 the building fund contained over \$20,000.00. In the Spring of 1958 a modern central heating and air conditioning system was installed in the church, providing year round comfort in the sanctuary. This system was financed by donations and pledges. Reverend Spencer's pastorate at Trinity ended in May, 1958 after three very successful years in which he made many friends and was instrumental in leading many souls to Christ.

Reverend J.H. Bullington was the pastor at Trinity from June, 1958 until the Fall of 1959. The church continued to prosper and grow under his leadership and in October, 1959 he was instrumental in having a building committee to secure plans and estimates for construction of the long awaited educational addition to the church. Reverend Bullington

was transferred from Trinity by the Conference late in 1959 and he was replaced by The Reverend W. Herbert Walls. Shortly after Reverend Walls arrival, the plans for the addition were finalized and soon construction began on twelve classrooms and a fellowship hall. This construction was completed in July, 1960 at a cost of \$33,000. The records for the next few years are not as complete as they should be. The membership of the church had begun to decline in the late 1950's and by May, 1962 there were only 517 members reported.

The Reverend E. Hilton Jones arrived to assume the pastorate of Trinity in June, 1962 and immediately began a drive to improve the financial situation of the church, which had suffered considerably in the past few years. The efforts of the minister and the people produced excellent results and the collections amounted to more than \$28,000.00 in the conference year ending in May, 1963. In 1963 a Church Conference voted to purchase the property across the street in front of the church. Included were three houses facing Fifth Avenue and several store buildings facing Sixteenth Street. Two of the houses were soon sold and removed from the property. The other house and buildings were leased for rental income.

In 1964 the Trinity Kindergarten and Nursery School was established to meet the need in the community for additional kindergarten facilities and to provide day care services for the growing number of working mothers. The initial enrollment was thirty children and Mrs. V.O. Bafley was named as the director. The school utilizes the basement of the church for study and the area behind the church for recreation.

During the past several years prior to 1966 the parsonage on Eleventh Avenue had become more and more costly to maintain and it was decided, in the Spring of 1966, to sell the house and purchase a new, more modern one for use as the pastor's residence. The church officials voted to purchase a house at 313 33rd Place and this was done in May, 1966. Reverend Jones' pastorate ended at this time and the new pastor, the Reverend Charles A. Corbitt moved into the new parsonage when he arrived in June. Later in 1966 the church elected to remove the house and buildings across from the church and use the area for a parking lot.

The years 1967 and 1968 brought a gradual increase in church membership and improvements in other phases of the church work. The people of the church gave over \$32,000.00 in support of the church during the year ending in May, 1968. New carpeting was placed in the sanctuary by the Friendly Builders Sunday School Class. Trinity experienced an even better year, financially, during the conference year ending in May, 1969 when all conference claims were paid and almost \$40,000.00 was received and disbursed. Reverend Corbitt's service as the pastor at Trinity ended in May, 1970 and the Reverend John Ed Mathison assumed the pastorate at that time.

In the two short years he has served at Trinity, Reverend Mathison has established himself as one of the outstanding ministers in the history of the church. Under his direction Trinity has made remarkable progress in all phases of church life. In 1971 Trinity Church led the Troy District in most areas including new members and total income. Attendance at church services are higher today than they have been in several years. As a result of Reverend Mathison's efforts, the United Methodist Youth Fellowship attendance has increased until it is larger than it has been in over twenty years. He was largely responsible for the formation of the Youth Folk Group

which has witnessed with their music in the area and in several cities in Alabama and Florida, eliciting great credit upon themselves and Trinity Church.

The officials of the church decided in 1971 that the parsonage on 33rd Place, with its small rooms and poorly landscaped lot, was not suitable for use as a home for the pastor and elected to purchase a new one. They voted to purchase a large house of brick veneer construction located in Carriage Hills. The old parsonage was sold and the proceeds applied on the purchase price of the new one.

If time and space permitted, many more outstanding events in the life of Trinity could be enumerated. One could mention the many dedicated and faithful laymen and lay women who have served in various capacities. In closing it can be said that the Trinity United Methodist Church of Phenix City has had a long and useful life in it's first one hundred years. It has influenced the lives of thousands of people for God. Not only has Trinity had a long and useful life in the past, it has a wonderful opportunity for growth, development and service during the years ahead. It looks forward to the future with a greater vision and a deeper desire to serve God, the Father Almighty.

## WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized at Trinity Church on September 3, 1940 with ninety charter members. Addressing the ladies, the Reverend R. J. Haskew explained that the purpose of the meeting was to reorganize the Woman's Missionary Society under the new doctrine of the Methodist Church. Officers elected at this organizational meeting were: Mrs. V. R. Greene, President, Mrs. J. E. Hornsby, Vice President, Mrs. J. D. Stillwell, Recording Secretary, Mrs. F. M. Morton, Corresponding Secretary, and Mrs. Daisy Kittrell, Treasurer. The circle presidents elected were Mrs. O. C. Gibson, Mrs. W. H. Walker, Mrs. Ethel Mauldin, and Mrs. P. L. Musick. Mrs. Greene charged the members of the organization to be true to the purpose of the Society, to study the needs about them, and to do all that they could to make the Society a spiritual power in the community.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service has always been a vital organization at Trinity Church. Throughout the years it has made numerous contributions to missionary causes throughout the world. They have also been instrumental in securing funds for local as well as conference level work. They have been responsible for many studies that have greatly enhanced the spiritual life at Trinity Church and throughout the community.

A complete list of ladies who have served as president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service is not available, but a partial list is as follows:

Mrs. V. R. Greene  
Mrs. J. E. Hornsby  
Mrs. L. M. Coulter  
Mrs. J. F. Claridy, Jr.  
Mrs. L. L. Layfield  
Mrs. James Hobbs  
Mrs. Ralph Holloway  
Mrs. Bobby Piland  
Mrs. Robert C. Greene  
Mrs. C. H. Booth  
Mrs. Ford Duncan



## WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD

The Wesleyan Service Guild of Trinity United Methodist Church began originally as a night circle of the Woman's Missionary Society. It was called the Janie White Circle, named for the mother of Mrs. Jesse Langford who served as chairman of the circle. The Janie White Circle was quite active and grew in many ways. On October 4, 1940, this Circle became the Wesleyan Service Guild of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and named Mrs. Jesse Langford as the President.

The Wesleyan Service Guild was formed to provide a channel through which employed women could achieve spiritual enrichment and Christian fellowship and study the needs and help support the Christian work around the world. The Guild also takes part in service activities to help strengthen the local church and to improve civic, community and world conditions.

Charter members of the Guild were:

Mrs. Jesse Langford	Mrs. Myrtle Nix
Mrs. Boba Thigpen	Mrs. Addie Sue Kittrell
Mrs. Carrie Christiansen	Mrs. Larue Edwards
Mrs. Evelyn Christiansen	Mrs. Katie Taff
Mrs. Johnnie Haines	Mrs. Josie Stillwell
Mrs. Ethel Darnell	Mrs. Beulah Graddy
Mrs. Lillian Dobbs	Mrs. Nona McLure
Mrs. Erline Buchanan	Mrs. Olive Matthews
Mrs. Maggie Haines	Mrs. Margaret Matthews

The names of all presidents are not available but we mention a few:

Mrs. Jesse Langford	Mrs. Evelyn Christiansen
Mrs. Lillian Dobbs	Mrs. Katie Taff
Mrs. Ethel Darnell	Mrs. Boba Thigpen
Mrs. Ruth McKnight	Mrs. Clara Helms
Mrs. Olive Matthews	Mrs. Addie Sue Kittrell
Mrs. Alma Mann	Mrs. Larue Edwards
Mrs. Gladys Tinkler	Mrs. Alice Perry
Mrs. Janice Godbold	Mrs. Marie Davis
Miss Vertis Day	Mrs. Jean Smith
Mrs. Ophelia Brausa	

## METHODIST MEN'S CLUB

The exact date of the organization of The Methodist Men's Club at Trinity Church is not known but, throughout the past several years this group of men have been a significant part of the Church and have contributed considerably to its spiritual and temporal growth. This organization has been very effective over the years in conducting fund drives to raise money for special church projects. On at least two occasions recently they have secured the necessary funds to have the exterior of the church painted.

The Men's Club has for several years sponsored a Prayer Breakfast for the men of the church each Sunday morning before church services. This has provided the men of the church another opportunity for fellowship and spiritual fulfillment. The current project of the Trinity Men's Club is the raising of money to finance the placing of a steeple upon the church belltower. Approximately one-half of the amount needed has already been received and it is anticipated that the remaining funds required will be in hand in the very near future.

The current president of the Trinity Methodist Men's Club is Mr. D. A. Ramsey and the Treasurer is Mr. Banks Craddock. A complete list of those who have served as president of this organization is not available, but some others who have are: V. O. Bagley, Jack Reeves, Lyman Bird, Willard Wilchar, and Rus Keuling.

ROLL OF PASTORS

S.N. Tucker		Lamar Spencer	1955-1958
J.W. Simmons		J.H. Bullington	1958-1959
H.C. Fentress		W.H. Walls	1959-1963
J.H. Wardlaw		E.Hilton Jones	1963-1966
C.R. Larmer		Charles A. Corbit	1966-1970
J.B. Cumming		John Ed. Mathison	1970-Present
A.M. Jones			
J.B. Nelson			
Angus Dowling			
R.A. Foster	1893-1894		
James M. Greene			
S.G. Boyd			
I.F. Bilbro	1900-1903		
P.M. Guthrie	1903-1907		
J.W. Reinhardt	1907-1909		
Havilen T. Strout	1909-1911		
J.W. Hammer	1911-1912		
T.P. Fincher	1912-1913		
Norman McLeod	1913-1913		
J.P. Roberts	1913-1914		
John H. Williams	1914-1915		
H. Lisenby	1915-1917		
J.P. Daughtry	1917-1919		
M.J. Bouterse	1919-1920		
James M. Glenn	1920-1922		
M.D. Taylor	1922-1924		
J.B. Tate	1924-1924		
J.A. Whitsett	1924-1925		
C.A. Williams	1925-1926		
J.M. Truett	1926-1929		
J.L. Daniel	1929-1931		
D.F. Ellis	1931-1932		
H.E. Wilson, Sr.	1932-1936		
T.J. Gross	1936-1938		
R.J. Haskew	1938-1942		
T.C. Casady	1942-1944		
H.P. Mathison	1944-1948		
R.J. Haskew	1948-1954		
W.S. Guice	1954-1955		

MEMBERS ENTERING MINISTRY FROM TRINITY

R.S. Adair  
Hugh Baird  
A.C. Clayton  
Jim Brooks  
D.A. Cook  
A.L. Lumpkin  
W.O. Perry  
S.W. Perry  
Raleigh Strickland  
J.P. Dannelly, Jr.  
Ralph Martin  
H.E. McCrary  
Homer L. Anthony  
Arthur Fussell  
Ted Waller  
James Thomas Kemp  
Porter B. Daniels  
Albert Hunt  
Herman Lumpkin  
Robert Kittrell

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

Bishop -----Kenneth Goodson  
 District Superintendent -----Stephen F. Dill  
 Minister -----John Ed Mathison  
 Lay Leader----- Warren Richards  
 Chairman-Ecumenical Affairs---Mrs. Evelyn Christiansen  
 Chairman-Education -----Vivian O. Bagley  
 Chairman-Evangelism-----Bobby Martin  
 Chairman-Missions -----Mrs. Elizabeth Claridy  
 Chairman-Social Concerns ----- Ford Duncan  
 Chairman-Stewardship ----- Willard Wilchar  
 Chairman-Worship -----Mrs. Robert Greene  
 Treasurer -----Warren Richards  
 Chairman-Finance -----Willard Wilchar  
 President United Methodist Youth  
 Fellowship ----- Larry Weaver  
 President Women's Society of Christian  
 Service ----- Mrs. Ford Duncan  
 President Wesleyan Service Guild----Mrs. Leo Samhammer  
 President United Methodist Men ----- D. A. Ramsey  
 Chairman-Council on Ministries ----- Mrs. L.P. Stough  
 Chairman-Administrative Board ----- Fred Hilyer  
 Health and Welfare Representative ----- Roy Evans  
 Chairman- Pastor-Parish Relations -----James Hobbs  
 Director of Music -----Mrs. LaDon Spivey  
 Secretary -----Mrs. Myrett Adkins  
 Financial Secretary ----- Mrs. Leo Samhammer  
 Membership Secretary ----- Miss Annie Wheelus

ELECTED STEWARDS

C.D. Barnette  
L.L. Anthony  
Bill Johnson  
O.P. Thigpen  
Fred Hilyer  
James Hobbs  
J.M. Helms  
Mrs. C.H. Booth

J.W. Christiansen  
Mrs. V.R. Greene  
Mrs. Ethel Craddock  
LaDon Spivey  
L.L. Layfield  
Mrs. Otis Taff  
Kenneth Holloway  
Mrs. Adrian Smith

Carl Jones  
J.M. Childs, Jr.  
David Freeman  
Harry Johnson  
Miss Jane Gullatt  
Miss Stella Mitchell  
Robert Greene  
Miss Alice Wheelus  
Gene Dobbs

TRUSTEES

Roy M. Greene  
C.D. Barnette  
L.L. Anthony

Dennis Mitchell  
L.E. Perry

D.A. Ramsey  
Russ Keuling  
J.R. Wilson

## ROLL OF MEMBERS

Adams, Mrs. Jeff  
Adkins, Mr. and Mrs. Myrett M.  
Anthony, Mr. and Mrs. L. L.  
    David  
Anthony, Mrs. Mabel  
Anthony, Mrs. Mary L.  
Anthony, Mrs. W. F.  
Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Albert H.  
Arrighi, Mr. Donald L.  
Arrighi, Mr. and Mrs. William D.  
Arrington, Mrs. Marlin  
Bagley, Mr. and Mrs. V. O.  
Bain, Miss Elma  
Barbee, Mrs. Minnie  
Barnett, Mrs. Anthony  
Barnette, Mr. and Mrs. C. D.  
    Joy  
Barnette, Mr. and Mrs. James  
Barr, Mrs. Glenn  
Barr, Mrs. Wendell  
Bartholomew, Mrs. Lola  
Baxter, Mr. and Mrs. J. W.  
Bigham, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil  
Bishop, Mrs. V. E.  
Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman  
Blair, Mrs. L. G.  
Blalock, Mrs. E. H.  
Booth, Mr. and Mrs. C. H.  
Booth, Mrs. H. O.  
Boswell, Mrs. C. H. Sr.  
Boswell, Mr. Hubert, Jr.  
Brand, Mrs. Ethel  
Briller, Mrs. Richard  
Britt, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde  
    Julie Ann  
    Chris C.  
    Laurel E. Bailey  
Brooks, Mrs. Annie M.



Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. H. D.  
Bryan, Mr. W. Michael  
Bryan, Mr. William  
Buchanan, Mr. Edgar C.  
Burkett, Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Darwin  
Burnside, Mr. J. T.  
Burnside, Mr. and Mrs. Ray  
Bush, Mrs. Bill  
Byars, Mr. Gary  
Byars, Mr. Joel Vann  
Cain, Mrs. Roland R.  
Calloway, Mrs. Larry W.  
Carden, Miss Wilma  
Childs, James David  
Childs, Mr. and Mrs J. M. Jr.  
    Joyce  
    Patti  
Childs, Mrs. J. M. Sr.  
Christiansen, Mr. and Mrs. James W.  
Christiansen, Mrs. Carrie  
Christiansen, Mr. James Barry  
Claridy, Mrs. J. F.  
Clark, Mrs. Ernest  
Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. Homer D. Jr.  
Cobb, Mr. Homer D. III  
Coleman, Mrs. Linda  
Cook, Mr. Benjamin  
Cooper, Mrs. W. Celia  
Copeland, Miss Belle  
Copeland, Mr. Charles Frank  
Copeland, Miss Nancy  
Corbett, Miss Mattie  
Cosby, Miss Betty Jo  
Cosby, Mrs. Maude  
Craddock, Mrs. Banks  
Crenshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow  
Critz, Miss Mary  
Crowley, Mr. Richard  
Davis, Mr. and Mrs. A. D.  
Davis, Mrs. Bill

Deanhardt, Mr. and Mrs Neal  
Karen Beth  
Melanie Joy  
Dietrich, Mrs. Patricia  
Dilbone, Mrs. Karl  
Dobbs, Mr. and Mrs. David Eugene  
Doyle, Mrs. James  
Ducker, Mrs. Mary  
Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. F. Ford  
Garry Ford  
David Brian  
Duncan, Mrs. Martha  
Eason, Mr. and Mrs. James  
Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Carl S.  
Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene  
Edwards, Mrs. Harvey  
Edwards, Mrs. Minotte  
Eiland, Mrs. Velma  
Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. John  
Evans, Mr. Charles  
Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Roy B.  
Barbara  
Fleming, Mrs. George R.  
Flippo, Mr. and Mrs. James R.  
Robin  
Flowers, Mrs. Leamon  
Foster, Mrs. W. D.  
Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. David  
Fussell, Mr. and Mrs H. E.  
Fussell, Mr. Herman L.  
Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank  
Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Clanton, Sr.  
Gibson, Mr. George Clanton, Jr.  
Givens, Mrs. James  
Goheen, Mrs. Billy R.  
Greene, Mrs. V. R.  
Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C.  
Robert Carroll, Jr.  
George  
John

Greene, Roy M.  
    Roy Mitchell, Jr.  
Greer, Mrs. Cecil  
Griffin, Mr. H. L.  
Griggs, Donna Marie  
Gullatt, Mrs. Julia E.  
Gullatt, Miss Jane  
Hagen, Mr. and Mrs. W. B.  
    Robert Earl  
    Williard Bertram, Jr.  
    Shirley Helen  
Haines, Miss Maggie  
Hall, Mr. James R. Jr.  
Hancock, Willard A. Jr.  
Harrelson, Mr. J. C.  
Hawkins, Mrs. B. F.  
Helms, Mr. and Mrs. James M.  
    Kittie Ann  
    James Maurice, Jr.  
Hilyer, Mr. W. Fred, Jr.  
Hilyer, Mrs. Elizabeth  
Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs James A.  
    Dave Duke  
Hobbs, Mrs. W. L.  
Holloway, Mrs. Ralph  
    Kenneth  
    Gary  
Horne, Mr. C. C.  
Horne, Mr. and Mrs. James R.  
Hubbard, Mrs. P. J.  
Hughes, Mrs. Emma Sue  
Hunt, Mrs. Eva  
Hurtt, Mrs. Claborn  
Hurtt, Mrs. W. M.  
Jackson, Mrs. Annie Mae  
James, Mrs. E. L.  
Jenkins, Mrs. Etta  
Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. Smith T. Sr.  
    Paul Gregory  
Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill  
    Cynthia

Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn  
Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leslie  
    Leslie Chappell  
Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. J. W.  
Johnson, Mr. Phillip J.  
Johnson, Mrs. J. C.  
Johnson, Mrs. Lemuel  
Johnson, Mrs. Nonie  
Johnston, Mrs. Essie  
Jolly, Mr. and Mrs. Carl  
Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Carl O.  
    Carl Anthony  
    Martha Ann  
Jones, Mr. James D.  
Jones, Mrs. Mattie L.  
Kane, Mr. Francis  
Kane, Mrs. W. F.  
Kattman, Mrs. Betty A.  
Kendrick, Mrs. James C.  
    Mary Ellen  
Kent, Mrs. Ruth  
Kerner, David  
Kerr, Miss Suzanne  
Keuling, Mr. and Mrs. R. J.  
King, Miss Debra  
Kinney, Mr. Terry L.  
Kite, Mrs. Edna  
Knighton, Mr. Fred  
Knowles, Mrs. Clyde M. Jr.  
Ladner, Richard  
Lakey, Mr. Curtis  
Lammons, Mrs. Melvin  
Layfield, Mr. and Mrs. L. L.  
Lewis, Mrs. Marguerite  
Lochmiller, Mrs. Frank  
Locklar, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne  
Lumpkin, Mr. and Mrs. J. Watkins  
    James W.  
    Ralph Lee  
Lumpkin, Mr. and Mrs. H. Owen

Luton, Dr. and Mrs. Norman S.  
Luton, Mr. Norman S. Jr.  
Lyon, Mrs. James C.  
Lynn, Mrs. Jeff  
McClain, Mrs. Albert Lee  
McCluskey, Mrs. W. T.  
McCluskey, Miss Rita  
McFarlin, Mrs. Mabel  
Mancil, Mrs. G. E.  
Marchman, Mr. and Mrs Taylor B. Jr  
Marshall, Mrs. Mary  
Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Joe  
    Vickie  
Martin, Mr. and Mrs. O. F.  
Mathison, Mrs. John Ed  
Matthews, Mrs. Bonnie K.  
Merritt, Mrs. J. E.  
Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis  
    Sheri Jo  
    Debby Lynn  
Mitchell, Miss Stella L.  
Moore, Mrs. Florence  
Moore, Miss Mrytle  
Mullin, Mrs. Lois  
Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Ocie L.  
Odell, Mr. and Mrs. Courtney J.  
O'Neil, Mrs. Florence  
Osborne, Mrs. Robert  
Patterson, Mrs. A. L.  
Patterson, Mr. Samuel  
Penn, Mrs. Vera G.  
Perdue, Mrs. Rosa  
Perry, Mr. and Mrs. L. E.  
Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. John K.  
Piland, Mrs. Bobby S.  
    Melinda Cheryl  
Plott, Mr. D. E.  
Porter, Mr. and Mrs. L. D.  
Posey, Mrs. Horace F.

Posey, Mr. John W.  
Posey, Mrs. Pearl  
Pyle, Mrs. John T.  
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Ramsey, Mrs. Effie  
Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Jack W.  
Anne  
Reeves, Mr. John A.  
Rice, Mrs. O. J.  
Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Otis D.  
Richards, Mr. James N.  
Richards, Mr. Warren N. III  
Roberts, Mr. McDuffie  
Robicheaux, Mrs. Ronnie  
Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond G. Jr.  
Rookard, Mrs. J. D.  
Samhammer, Mr. and Mrs. Leo  
Scruggs, Mr. and Mrs. William R.  
Carl Marshall  
LeAnn  
Sindledecker, Mr. and Mrs.  
Smith, Mr. Aaron  
Smith, Mrs. F. A.  
Spann, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie  
Spivey, Mr. and Mrs. LaDon  
Kevin  
Spivey, Karen  
Stillwell, Mrs. J. D.  
Stillwell, Lt. W. K.  
Strickland, Mrs. C. L.  
Strickland, Charles Larry  
Stripland, Mrs. Goldie  
Stough, Mrs. L. P.  
Stroud, Mrs. Geneva  
Swader, Mrs. J. B.  
Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H.  
Taff, Mrs. C. M.  
Taff, Mrs. Otis  
Temples, Mrs. James

Thomas, Mrs. Lamar  
Thigpen, Mr. and Mrs. O. P.  
Thurmond, Mr. and Mrs. W. T.  
Timothy  
Brenda Lee  
George Wood  
Tillery, Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd  
Tolbert, Mrs. J. C.  
Tucker, Mr. Clyde  
Turner, Mrs. Bill  
Turner, Ricky  
Tyner, Mr. and Mrs. A. Claborn  
Walls, Mrs. W. D.  
Bill  
Waites, Mrs. Hazel  
Waites, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harold  
Waites, Mr. and Mrs. John Belton  
Ward, Mrs. Ioda  
Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. W. L.  
Larry  
Diane  
Wheelus, Miss Alice  
Wheelus, Miss Annie  
Wheelus, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Sr.  
Whitman, Mr. and Mrs. James C.  
Wilchar, Mr. and Mrs. F. W.  
Frank Burton  
Wilkerson, Mrs. Arthur B.  
Williams, Mrs. Frank W. Sr.  
Williams, Dr. and Mrs. Frank W.  
Frank W. III  
Wilson, Mrs. Bernard F.  
Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. James Robert  
Carol  
Catherine Anne  
Robert Walker  
David Mark  
Wingard, Mr. and Mrs. Robert S.  
Wright, Mrs. J. A.  
Jimmy  
Wuestney, Mrs. Paul  
Young, Miss Zadie