The original Bremen Methodist Church stood on what is now a vacant lot, next to what was known as the Parker Place. This location is just this side of the home place of the late Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Feild. The preacher at that time was a Reverend Ivy, who was followed by the Reverend Crow.

During The Reverend Crow's ministry, around 1890, the church building was rolled onto the lot where the late Jake Smith lived, because as Bremen grew the need was felt to get closer into town. While the church was being moved to new quarters, Sunday School and Preaching Services were held in the waiting room of the depot, stationed at the crossing in Old Town. Old Town, of Bremen, was made up of what is now the western part of Bremen. The new station section was called "Kramer".

The Reverend Searcy was pastor of the church in 1892. Mr. Richard Feild was one of the saints of the church, and his wife, Mrs. Linner Feild, ably assisted him in his Christian work as organist. The Reverend Searcy's salary was $300. per year. The Reverend Turner followed Mr. Searcy.

The Reverend C. P. Marchman was pastor when this church was demolished by a wind storm. He went to work to build a new church on the spot where the late Mrs. J. A. Copeland's home on Gordon Street stood. While this building was being constructed the members held their services in the Northern M. E. Church, located at the cemetery. Dr. M. K. Phillips gave the trees for the church building. The Rev. Marchman began cutting the trees himself. The members of the church, seeing their pastor working so hard, joined him in his labor. In the spring of 1900, the frame church building was erected to serve a community of less than 500 people and a church membership of 65. It was completed with no indebtedness.

The organ in the original building was moved to the new building and used until the church graduated to a piano - and as one lady said recently: "We worked hard for years to get away from the organ and now we are back where we started." Harvey and Ivey Bell, Jimmy Baskin and Ed Walker were given a bucket of candy to clean up the church grounds. Miss Effie Feild was among the adults helping to supervise the job.
The following men served as pastor of the church for a period of years:
Reverend J. M. Fowler, Walter King, J. W. Veatch, C. A. Norton, Mr. Carmichael,
J. J. Copeland, Z. R. Hawks, R. P. Tatum, H. O. Green, B. H. Green, V. A. Roark,
W. S. Gaines, D. B. Cantrell, A. F. Nunn, V. B. Hambrick, E. P. Eubanks, Mr.
Jolly, and G. A. Chambers.

At the time most of these ministers served the church, the parsonage was in
Buchanan. The Reverend Verdell walked to Bremen to fill his appointment and challeng­
ed anyone to beat him in a horse and buggy. Throughout the conference Mr. Verdell
was known as the "buttermilk man". Every glass he drank he made it with sugar,
which he believed must have g. an him his ability to walk so far and fast. Most of
the time he could outwalk a horse.

The first parsonage was built in Bremen around 1920.

On December 4, 1935, the Reverend W. L. Brackman came to Bremen. On his first
Sunday about 50 or less were present to hear their new pastor. This same year, the
parsonage, which included three and one-half rooms, was sold for $1,000. A new
parsonage was bought for $1,500 which was the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. S.
Williamson.

In the opening of the year 1936, the Reverend Brackman circulated a petition
throughout the community and had all beer and wine saloons closed. The City of
Bremen became dry and has been dry ever since. In 1936 a missionary society of about
14 members was organized. Up until this time the ladies' organization had been calle·
"Parsonage Aid".

During the same year the Reverend Brackman asked the church to rebuild, but
their excuse was that they were building their own homes, and could not. He then
turned his attention to the development and preparation of a revival. At this time
the Baptist church was without a pastor.

The spiritual life of the community was at a very low ebb. He called the Board
of Stewards and the Board of Deacons together and they decided to have a union meetin
A Baptist preacher and a Baptist singer were engaged for the meeting. It was a
great success. Several people were saved and joined the churches. By the close of
1937 the Sunday School attendance had increased from 150 to 200 people.

In January of 1938, a plans committee for a new building was appointed. Quarterly
Conference came and the church was given permission to sell the old property and buy
a new lot. As the lumber lay on the ground from the wooden bldg. being torn down, Mrs.
M. K. Phillips said she walked by one day and stood gazing at the altar rail that
was build from the pine her husband gave, and thought of face after face of dear old
saints who had offered effectual, fervant prayers at this altar. Among the deeply
religious women of the church who have passed on include; Mrs. J. J. May, grand­
mother of Mrs. Laura Jo Morris; Mrs. C. A. Upshaw, mother-in-law of Mrs. Hattie
Upshaw; Mrs. Jeannie Summerlin, grandmother of Donald Gray; and Mrs. Nannie Duncan,
whose husband was the first professor of Hamilton College.

On April 25, 1938, ground was broken for a new church building. The pastor
announced they were launching a "faith project". The sound of the hammer never
stopped until the building was completed, praise be to God. At times the money got
low, but they went to prayer and more money came. The new church building was
completed the last of October, 1938. On October 21, 1938, before the pews were
placed in the church, the first wedding ceremony was performed, the couple being
Etta Williamson and Earliss Massey. The first church service was held the first
Sunday in November.

This structure is built of the best materials; solid varigated brick walls,
albestos roof, maple floors, 10 Sunday School rooms, steam heating plant, plastered
walls.

The Women's Missionary Society bought new pews at a cost of over $1,000. The
entire cost of the church furnished was $12,000. On the first Sunday in September
1939, Bishop Decell, dedicated the church with a very impressive service. The year
of 1939 was a year of spiritual harvest. From the results of an old-fashioned revival
by the Reverend T. Perry Brannon, visiting evangelist, 86 souls were added to the
church; 57 on profession of faith, 29 by letter. A Saturday night prayer meeting was held every week in homes of the people from the time of this meeting through the latter part of 1944. In 1940 over 400 members constituted the church.

Throughout the years since 1940 many improvements have been made in all departments of the church. The Reverend W. H. Boring became the pastor in November 1940. The parsonage was sold for $1,800, and a brick structure was built as it now stands, 420 Gordon Street. Since the dedication of the parsonage in 1941, furnishings have been added from time to time. The building alone when completed cost $7,500. A fund was started, pledges made, for an organ for the church. The first donation was made by Mr. J. A. Davis, who was serving in the armed forces at that time.

After Dr. Wills M. Jones became pastor of the church in 1945, the various departments became better organized and the chimes were installed. In May, 1947, the Hammond organ was placed in the church, with Mrs. Chester Wynens as our organist.

The Reverend Hoke Sewell became pastor in June, 1947. An outstanding feature of his ministry was his work with the young people of the church and the town. The church progressed in its organizational work. At this time the Wesleyan Service Guild was organized.

Donald Gray, a member of the church, was admitted on trial to the North Georgia Conference as a minister in 1949.

The Reverend Henry T. Smith was pastor in 1950. The spiritual life was strengthened during his ministry.

Reverend Tom Wheelis followed Mr. Smith in 1952. During this time the church purchased the lot on the south side of the church property at a cost of $7,000. An educational building was built on this lot at a cost of $47,165. It was dedicated in 1954 by Bishop Arthur J. Moore. Also during this time the sanctuary was enlarged and remodeled, and the front of the church was reworked, and the entire building air-conditioned. The Methodist Men was organized with 72 charter members.

Randall Williamson, a member of the church, was admitted on trial to the North Georgia Conference as a minister in 1956.
Reverend Tim W. Holbrook was pastor from 1957-61. During his pastorate the church rolls were revised and the church school attendance reached an all high peak, often going over 300. The average attendance at Sunday School for 1958 was 283.

The Reverend Harry L. Mitchem was pastor in the years 1961-64. At this time the church bought the property north of the building at a cost of $17,000. On this lot were two houses, one of which was used as classroom for the youth department for a while.

One of the highlights of the ministry of Mr. Mitchem was the launching of the "Every Member Canvass", which has been carried out successfully each year since.

The Reverend P. V. Hall followed with his pastorate from 1964-69. The "J. Henry Bell Memorial Library" was established in April of 1965. The attendance and budget rose in 1964-65 and a new building committee was named and planning started for additional administrative and educational space.

The day kindergarten for the five year olds was organized in 1968 with a certified teacher. A playground area was fenced in for this group and this playground is also used for our church groups.

The "Adult Fellowship" Club was organized in 1968. This is composed of those who have retired. Meetings are held monthly.

The ground breaking for the new educational building was in December 1969. With the assistance of a person from the Board of Missions, the membership pledged the entire cost of the building, which was $216,000. This was paid over a period of three years.

The Reverend Lee Branham became pastor in 1969. The dedication of the new educational building took place in May 1970 with Bishop John Owen Smith presiding.

In 1969 while the new elementary school building for the Bremen City Schools was under construction, the Children's Department of the church school was used by the first grades for the full nine months' term at no cost to the school.

A beautiful Allen Electric Organ was given to the church in 1970 in loving memory of Mrs. Flora Otwell by her family.
A kindergarten for four year olds was started with a certified teacher in January of 1971.

In 1969 a Coffeehouse, located in a rent free building in the business part of town was opened by the church's young people for the youth of this area. In 1970 this facility was moved to the city recreation building.

Also in 1970 extensive repairs were made on the south wing of the education building. These included new floor and ceiling in Social Hall, carpets in rooms and halls, new lighting fixtures throughout the building. The program was completed in 1971 with the remodeling of the kitchen including new floor and ceiling, automatic dishwasher, and new cabinets.

As the conference year 1970-71 comes to a close Reverend Branham ends his second year as pastor. The people of the First United Methodist Church of Bremen look forward to further service for Christ and His cause in the years ahead.