HISTORY
OF THE
CHICOPEE METHODIST
CHURCH
1951 - 1981
1951-53...Rev. Sam Dailey, Pastor.

A call to special prayer by the Council of Bishops for our country. "I pray daily in private and in public for our leaders, for wisdom and courage, pray for our enemies, pray for those in battle and pray for ourselves."

A special prayer service about the altar on January 7, 1951.

Week of September 6, 1951, Albert Whelchel spoke to the church of his plans on leaving in a few days for Africa as a missionary. His subject was "How It Looks from Here."


"The Church is here to serve the community. Its purpose is to help men to see Jesus and carry out the Divine Intentions—not to be minister-to, but to minister."

1955-56...Rev. Jesse Boothe, Pastor.

"How would you feel?
If God gave us the very same amount of time and attention that we devote to Him?
If God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of Him?
If God offered as many excuses as we do, and if the excuses were no more justifiable as ours?
If God withheld His blessings from us as we withheld our offering from Him?"


"We had a very active youth program. The Daily Vacation Bible School children carried things they made to the hospital for the patients to enjoy.

"The future of all Methodism lies in the hands of the layman."

1961-64...Rev. Newton Scott, Pastor.

"We need to remember what has been done for us through our Lord Jesus Christ, before any effort is made to bring others to Him."

Rev. Dumas Shelnut spoke for revival services that were very inspiring.

Harley James, treasurer reports that we must maintain an average of $145 per week for 21 weeks to meet the annual budget. If we are to meet the back expenses and money borrowed during the last year, we must average $175 per week for the next 21 weeks.

* Excerpts from bulletins are enclosed in quotation marks.
1964...Rev. Reece Massey, Pastor.

A new Sunday School Class was organized for young adults named, "The Massey Crossroads S.S. Class."
The Senior MYF group presented an altar ware set to the church under the leadership of Mrs. Y.T. Sailers and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Millwood. The Senior MYF won the Attendance Banner at the December district meeting.

1966...Rev. Charles Nichols, Pastor.

A Christmas pageant was presented consisting of 38 members of the church.

"Christmas is the season for giving and not for getting"
"God gave the world a Saviour
Jesus gave the world some of Heaven's glory
Mary gave to the world her first born son
The Angels gave to Jesus and the world a Son
The shepherds gave Jesus their time and praises
The Wise Men gave Jesus their precious gifts
What gift have you to give?"

1967-68...Rev. Clayton Harrison, Pastor.

My Master
"I has walked life's path with an easy tread
Had followed where comfort and pleasure led
And then by change in a quiet place,
I met my Master, face to face."

A fire started in the basement and did extensive smoke damage to the sanctuary.

December 24, 1967...Rev. Albert Whelchel, Missionary to Africa spoke to the church.

1968-71...Rev. Lewis Gibbs, Pastor.

Roll of 146 members. In September, 1970 a series of services was conducted by Evangelist, Jim Jones, followed in October by a wonderful Lay Witness Mission. It was a great week as God led and hearts were warmed and blessed. The presence of the Holy Spirit was truly felt in the church. As a result, a community young people's group was organized called "God Squad". Two Prayer Groups were formed by volunteers for more dedicated service, prayer and study.

A special service was held on June 22, 1969 for all married couples of the church--"Reaffirming of their marriage vows"

The Young Crusaders S.S. Class was formed. The pastor wrote a monthly news bulletin.

1971...Rev. Ronald Gardner, Pastor.

"If the Lord is your shepherds, you have no need to want. A true missionary is God's man in God's place, doing God's work in God's way for God's glory."
1972...Rev. Charles Sampley, Pastor.

"We have committed the Golden Rule to memory, let us now commit it to life."

Mrs. Sampley's serious illness and death.

Chicopee Mfg. Co. gave the house next door to the church annex as a parsonage.

1974...Rev. George Thompson, Pastor

The Children's Choir under the direction of Mrs. J.C. Cagle is doing a wonderful job of witnessing in song, not only at church but at nursing homes, malls, etc. The Young People's group is very active attending song festivals at Icthus, at Asbury College in Wilmore Ky.

A great week of fellowship during the Bicentennial Celebration. Different activities all week followed by oldfashion Sunday Services outdoors.

The Young Crusaders S.S. Class wallpapered the nursery and pastor's study.

"God is not in need of anything, but all things are in need of God."


Candler was added as a satellite church.

All classes joined in painting their classrooms. The Young Crusaders S.S. Class remodeled the kitchen with Rev. Crawford and his father doing much of the cabinet work. The pastor also built shelves for the library that was begun with different members and the UMW donating books. Mrs. S.B. Jones and Mrs. Joe Holcomb served as librarians.

Church Directory was published in 1978.

Church members enjoyed annual picnic at Camp Glisson.

New class formed for youth of the church. Membership of the church--155.

Rev. Albert Whelchel, returned missionary from Africa, is now serving the Red Bird Mission.


Pastor doing a good work in the community. He helped initiate the "Contact Program" along with organizations in the community.

Membership of the church--158...September, 1981

By: Mrs. D.J. Nix...September, 1981

Rev. Gerry Davis