HISTORY

OF

TEMPLE-CONCORD CHARGE

Center Point Church
Concord Church
Temple Church
HISTORY OF CONCORD METHODIST CHURCH

A complete, accurate, satisfactory history of Concord Methodist Church has never been written and never can be. In the one-hundred and twenty-two years that have elapsed since the church was organized, many records have been lost and the searcher after truth of these early days find that he must often rely upon the oral testimony of the older members who were in their youth then, or received the traditions of the Church from their ancestors. Much, however, can be written which is authentic, which has been gathered into one story and which, I hope, will prove interesting and helpful to the descendants who seek to carry on the work of this church.

Of one thing the reader may rest assured, and that is that every statement and every figure in this story is absolutely correct so far as patient research and faithful endeavor can accomplish that object.

When the conference first presented the idea of getting up all the data possible about our church and the task committed to me, I was fortunate enough to find two people living here, both possesses a vivid, accurate, tenacious memory and who knew more of Concord Church and had more accurate records handed down from their ancestors than any two people living.
One was Mrs. T. C. Baskin who has spent his life here, and whose grandfather donated the plot upon which the Church stands today. The other was Mrs. Dova Bowell Cavender who has never moved from the old homestead. Her grandfather was also a very early settler in this community. To them, and others, I am indebted for much of the data below; while the balance has been secured from the county archives.

In 1828 Rev. James Baskin, by deed of gift conveyed a two acre lot of land, located about equal distance between Carrollton and Villa Rica in the County of Carroll, to trustees of Concord, for use by members of Methodist Church of the United States of North America. A building eighteen feet square was erected of logs on this lot. There were about thirteen charter members among them being Rev. James Baskin, Wright Majors, James Upton, David Stripling, Billy Traylor, Sloan Wynn and their wives. There may be others whose names are unknown. It was named Concord because the founders wished it to be one of unity and harmony. This building stood until 1836 when it was replaced by a larger one. It was twenty-four feet square, constructed of logs also. Traditional church history tells us that in 1854 at a cost of about five hundred dollars a frame structure was erected. It was thirty-six feet by forty feet square. It was dedicated to God the first Sunday in April of that year by Rev. J. C. Summons, Presiding Elder.

In 1868 the church was strengthened by the addition of a Sunday School. During the bitter cold months Sunday School was suspended for a short time but with the coming of spring, it was
it would always resume the activities. It is believed that William Taylor was elected the first Superintendent. There has been a duly elected Superintendent each year. These records are not very explicate but I give them as they appear. The records in 1869 states Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Smith, members of this church, moved to Brazil. In 1870 Bishop Pierce sent the first missionary to Brazil holding the first conference in Mrs. Smiths' yard. Mrs. Smith was a sister of J. F. Bryce. At this time Concord was on the Villa Rica circuit and was served by consecrated men who traveled on the horseback to accept the call of this high and holy work. The stewards reported twenty-one dollars and twenty cents collected for the pastor in 1873 with none for missions. This is the first financial report found for this church. 1886 found this church moved again. This time to the Dallas circuit which is another proof that it did not have easy sailing in infancy. But notwithstanding the many obstacles encountered, most of the early members of the church never wavered in their allegiance to and for the cause they held so dear.

In 1886, the church had grown to the extent that more land was desired. Rev. James Baskin, who was believed to be one of the most deeply religious men of his day, answered this call with two more acres by deed of gift. The actual deeds to the first church property were not recorded until 1852.
Three years later in 1889, a great revival was held which reached almost every individual in the community. It was conducted by members of the church, Local Preachers—C. W. Baskin, J. F. Bryce and Thomas Powell. Thirty-two were received into the church. By this time the little band of Christians faced the reality that there is only two courses open. They must either advance or fall back, for no church can stand still amid the aggressive forces of society. This desire to go forward led to another great revival in 1896. The blessings of which marked another high moment in the church history. There were fifty-four received into the church, many whose wise judgement, and unflenching courage has been felt through the years. This was under the pastorate of T. W. Irvine. One-half acre of land was purchased from John F. Bryce at seven dollars and seventy cents this same year. This made a total of four and one-half acres deeded to the church. Another great asset to the church at this time was the organization of the "Womens' Missionary Society." Miss Mary Wynn was elected president and served most efficiently in this capacity.

In the year 1900, Mr. J. F. Bryce sold another one-half acre, for burying ground. Eleven and one-half dollars was paid Mr. Bryce for this land. This made five acres which is the church property as it stands today. About this time the building, a frame structure, was wrecked by a storm. It was braced and worshiped in for several years.
In 1905 under the pastorate of W. O. Butler, the church became disunified. The membership could not agree on their doctrine and a small group separated themselves and organized what was known as the Free Methodist. They later erected a house of worship for their own faith. The actual organization of this church did not occur until about 1907. Two years later in 1909 Mr. Frank P. Powell, son of Thomas Powell, whose name was conceded to be one of the most deeply spiritual and devout members, and who like Apostle Paul was never ashamed of his religion, but always welcomed the opportunity to acknowledge a positive stand, launched the movement which resulted in the present brick structure. All members were inspired to action by the enthusiasm of the leader and with strong arms and open hearts began the task. The specifications were for a structure to be build of brick in ninety working days. All material to be on hand. In this day of easy transportation and paved highways we can not realize the hardship the people endured in conveying the material from Temple, a distance of about five and one half miles from the location. On occasions when the material was inadequate Mr. Powell arose at one o'clock to begin his days work in order that the contract would not be broken. The plans for this building were drawn by D. B. C. Powell, brother of Mr. Frank P. Powell, whose father settled in this community in the eighteen hundreds, and who has been a liberal contributor and a great spiritual influence to this church. When decisive moments arose in the church, his judgement could always be depended upon to lead the church in the right direction. He has been first in innumerable in-
terprises in the fields of medicine, education, and real estate.

On the first Sunday in July of that year at a cost of about four thousand dollars, the new building was dedicated to God by Bishop Warren A. Candler, this being very fitting as he attended Sunday School and Church here when a boy.

In 1920, Concord became a half-station and the church assumed the support of a missionary, he being Joseph E. Tiger. This was under the ministry of B. F. Mize. An "Epworth League" was also organized at this time. Its charter officiany and financial report is unknown. Its great influence on the youth of the church has been felt through the years. For even though it is a miracle of grace for a heart long hardened and given to sin to be converted it is more sublime to see youth converted. There is a life of service as well as a soul saved. Otherwise, only a soul is saved. A life is wasted in selfishness and sin. And can only be rescued after its experience with sin. The league always found the church membership willing to help when they were needed in any movement which concerned the youth of the community. Among those who have been outstanding in helping the youth are Mrs. Iva Scales Eady and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith.

A parsonage was rented from the time this church became a half station until 1924 when it became jointowner in a fifteen hundred dollar frame building at Temple. Previously this church had been on the Carrollton circuit and was a part ow-
er in a parsonage at Carrollton. It is not known to what extent we were interested.

Mr. Frank P. Powell was first again with a liberal contribution offering to install some memorial windows. He was denied this privilege because the consent of all trustees could not be secured. Mr. Powell was a member of this church and Sunday School for more than sixty years. During his long and useful life, it is believed he held every office in church and Sunday School which was interested to a member and at the time of his death was a trustee. His presence, his exhortations and liberality uplifted all who knew him. He was one of the church's strongest pillars.

Another notable of this period whose influence will also be felt through the years is Dr. S. F. Scales who was prominently associated with this church for many years. He was a past member of the Board of Stewards and a trustee at the time of his death. He was a very liberal contributor, a great strength and foremost in every enterprise that gave promise of the uplifting, upbuilding and improvement of the church. In the early "thirties", he offered to donate a Sunday School annex. The church could not accept this donation because, as with Mr. Powell, the consent of all trustees could not be secured. These are only a few of the many liberal contributions offered by these progressive men. Many of the improvements, the members enjoy today would have been impossible except for the liberal contributions of these intelligent men. Despite the fact that neither could make the
progress they desired; they remained devoted to their church and all its interest until their death in 1933 and 1950. In the medical Journal, Dr. D. S. Reese wrote the following to Dr. Scales which expressed the high esteem in which he was held by those who knew him. "He was a honest man and his heart was a Temple of Justice. Loyalty and service was his creed."

The present pews were added in 1935 at a cost of about six hundred thirty-one dollars. In 1938 the parsonage was sold and a more modern one erected a new location in 1938. The location selected was adjoining the Temple Methodist Church. This parsonage is presently valued at $7500.00. The steps and columns at the driveway were built in 1941 at a cost of two hundred thirty dollars. This period is marked by many improvements to the church and community. The money and influence of Mrs. Mae Spence Scales, wife of Dr. S. F. Scales, whose course through life has been marked with fair-dealings, honest purposes, strict integrity and unwavering fidelity to her high conception of right, secured for this community a four acre plot and building which was appropriately named Community Center. This has contributed much to the progress of the church as all church socials held there. This is only one of the many great contributions made by so worthy a member.

Beautiful memorial windows were added and repairs made in 1944 under the pastorate of Rev. Sam A. Daily who
went about his work, notwithstanding the many impediments in his way, with all his heart and soul. The great truths he proclaimed while here and his Godly life, bears fruit through the years. The church is richer and better because he came and to his wife we are much indebted for her example of a woman who "looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness." The task was completed at a cost of about two thousands dollars and the windows dedicated October 29, 1944 by District Superintendant Rev. B. Frank Pim. Though Mr. Frank Powell had passed away many years before he was greatly responsible for their installation as liberal contributions were made by his widow Mrs. Luridine Redwine Powell and his children Mr. Vera Powell McPherson, Mrs. Dova Powell and Mrs. Maggie Powell Keily. To Dr. and Mrs. S. F. Scales, we also owe much for it was they who stood by Rev. Daily with the assurance that all expenses would be paid by them that could not be raised by the rest of the Congregation. A cement floor and tiling replaced a wood floor in 1948 at a cost of about one thousand seven hundred dollars. During these years the membership decreased and it became necessary to become a forth station.

In 1949 the church raised between seven and eight hundred dollars. Five of which was for the support of the minister. The records state the membership as one hundred and forty four.

The Sunday School has a membership of one hundred ten. Three hundred twenty-three dollars were raised for all-pur-
poses through this channel.

The Women's Society of Christian Service, which was formally the Women's Missionary Society, has a membership of twenty-three members and raised for all purposes last year.

Today in this great year of 1950 under the guidance of such consecrated members as Mrs. Dova Powell Cavender, Mr. C. S. Allen, Mrs. Florence Morgan Almon, and Mrs. Mae Spence Scales and others, who like their ancestors, one of wise judgment and inflexible courage, Concord looks forward to the future. Their influence and lifes' work has been spent for Christ. As the work of the church has fallen into the hands of such ardent and faithful young men as Frank Kelley and others, we pray that they may keep the fires of the church ever burning. It is the hope of all that such an upright man and pure Christian as Frank Kelley, great grandson of Mr. Thomas Powell, and the fourth generation of the Powell family to serve this church with notable contributions, shall maintain the inflexible courage and loyalty of his ancestors and the great determination with which he is pressing forward.

It was the vision and faith of the consecrated and faithful superintendents, Board of Stewards, teachers and pastors that pointed to the Sunday School and community the essential need of the church which has influenced the lives of many men, women, boys and girls. The pastors, teachers and officers have endeavored to teach that the reality of God is
is best seen in the life and spirit of Jesus and His teachings. Concord Methodist Church stands today as a memorial to the pioneers and does a great part in developing the spiritual resources of the community. It is enshrined in the hearts of those who have entered its portals. Under the consecrated leadership of an interested membership and ministry, Concord looks forward with the God who has helped in the part. Its prospects today are as bright as the promises of God.

Among those who have gone into the ministry from here are; Rev. J. F. Bryce, C. R. Bryce, and George O. Stone.


In the first presiding Elder record was W. D. Mathews in 1842, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, James P. Payne-1848, 49, 50, J. C. Summons-1851, 52, 53, 54, 55, Samuel Anthony, 1856, 57, 58, W. H. Evans-1859, 60, J. Blakley Smith-1861, 62, 63, 64, John C. McGee-1865, 66, 67, L. J. Davis-1868, 69, Peter Ryburn-1870,
71, F. A. Kimble-1872, Thomas Pierce-1873, 74, W. P. Pledger-1875,
S. P. Richardson-1876, 77, 78, 79, W. T. Glynn-1880, 81,
12, J. R. Mason-1883, 84, 85, 86, 87, W. D. Anderson-1888, 89,
W. F. Glenn-1890, M. P. Lovejoy-1891, 92, 93, M. J. Cofer-
1896, T. J. Christian-1899, 1900, M. J. Cofer-1900, W. R,
Foot and M. J. Cofer-1902, 03, 04, S. B. Ledbetter-1905, 06,
17, 08, J. S. Jenkins-1909, 10 Walter B. Dillard-1911, J. H,
Rekes-1912, 13, 14, 15, J. R. King-1916, 17, 18, 19, W. T.
Irvine-1920, 21, 22, 23, 24, J. P. Ervine-1924, 25, 26, 27,
G. L. King-1928, 29, 30, 31, J. W. McKibben-1932, 33, 34, 35,
H. C. Holland-1936, 37, 38, W. H. La Prade-1939, 40, 41, 42,
P. Frank Pim-1943, 44, 45, 46, 47, Willis M. Jones- 1948, 49,
D. L. Haygood- 1950

Mary West
Concord (M.E.) Church