

HISTORY
of
ROME TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

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In the year 1875, in a room temporarily furnished, in an unfinished home at the corner of West Tenth Street and Avenue A (then West Fourth and Mill Street) Trinity Church had its beginning. The home was being built by Mr. John W. Hunt, who had invited Rev. James A. Clement of Forrestville (now North Rome) to come and preach in the community then known as DeSoto. Mr. Hunt and Mr. John G. Riley were very much concerned that there was neither church nor school in this neighborhood where they lived.

Rev. Clement preached his first sermon to a group of six people, namely: - Mr. Riley, Mr. Hunt and his daughter, Wm. A. Wright, Mrs. Frank Pence, and Capt. Luke Mitchell. In a month's time the congregation had doubled.

DeSoto was placed on a circuit in 1876 - the church was known as "DeSoto Methodist Church." The Rev. F. P. Reynolds served as pastor during this year. The following year the Rev. Sam P. Jones, later to become the well-known Evangelist, was appointed to serve this charge.

Under the ministry of Rev. Jones the membership increased rapidly. Through his efforts a small frame church was built on the present Trinity Church site in the year 1877. On its first Board of Stewards were R. T. Wilkerson, Hiram D. Hill, James B. Hill, James T. Austin and C. W. Morris. R. T. Wilkerson, a local Preacher, was the first Sunday School Superintendent.

While Rome was struggling to recover from the disastrous flood of 1886 and Rev. C. C. Carpy was pastor, it was decided a new church building was needed. Mr. Charles W. Morris bought the old building and moved it to its present location on North Fifth

Avenue, where it now stands between the Barron Apartments and the Church of Christ and has been used as a dwelling since it was moved.

The new brick structure was started either in 1887 or 1888. Mr. Hugh McCrary, then a mere lad and first to pay his subscription to the building fund, laid the first brick. When the church was completed it was dedicated by Bishop Warren A. Chandler and the name was changed from DeSoto Methodist to Second Methodist Church. It was then that the church was made a station.

Mrs. J. Walter Reece who was Miss Lizzie Wilkerson and mother of Mrs. Hugh McCrary, Mrs. Ike Weathers and Mrs. Ed L. King were church organists for years. Mrs. Hiram Hill was first pianist. Among others who have filled this place was Mrs. C. A. Milhollin, daughter of Mr. Charles Morris, who was assisted by her cousin, Miss Ruth Morris and Mrs. T. B. Owens (Miss Jennie Hill); more recent ones are Mrs. McCrary, Miss Martha King and Mrs. Clifford Evans.

The first choir was organized by Mrs. Stanley Fraser whose husband was then pastor. It was under the leadership of Rev. Stanley Fraser that the change of the name of the church to "Trinity" was made.

The present parsonage was bought in the year 1888 and was first occupied by the Rev. B. F. Fraser. Additions and improvements have been made to the original house. Mr. J. B. Hill, father of Mrs. T. B. Owens and next door neighbor of the parsonage family, had the porch built.

Mr. Hill served as Sunday School Superintendent for 22 years. He was followed by Mr. Hugh McCrary, who filled the place for 19 years. Other Sunday School Superintendents have been Mr. Henderson L. Lanham, now serving the 7th District in Washington as Representative in the House, Miss Dora Lee Wilkerson, granddaughter of the first Sunday

School Superintendent, R. T. Wilkerson, Clifford Evans, R. L. Johnson, Miss Willye Jo Copeland, and the present Superintendent, Chastine Parker.

A Church School Plant was built in 1924 when the Sunday School was departmentalized. When this \$20,000.00 structure became too small to meet the needs a beautiful, modern in every respect, addition was made to the church school building in 1949, under the ministry of Rev. James Moore. On October 2, 1949 the new building was opened for use. Bishop Moore preached the sermon at this occasion. On June 15, 1952, with the payments on the building completed, the dedication will take place - again Bishop Moore will preach and many of the former pastors will attend the dedication.

The main auditorium of the church has been enlarged and re-decorated, new light fixtures and carpets are being installed and memorial stained glass windows will make an attractive addition, making this one of the most beautiful of the Rome churches.

Many families, descendants of the founders of the church, still have their membership and worship regularly at Trinity. Outstanding ministers and religious workers have gone from this church into broader fields of service in the building of God's Kingdom. The church and church school have a constantly and steadily growing membership and contributes an important part in the spiritual growth of the community and the city at large. The Rev. Allen A. Phillips is now pastor of Trinity.

Pastors who have formerly served the church are: F. F. Reynolds, Sam P. Jones, R. E. L. Timmons, J. T. Gibson, O. C. Simmons, R. M. Thigpen, C. C. Carey, W. F. Robinson, B. F. Fraser, W. R. Branham, G. W. Duval, C. V. Weathers, W. T. Hunnicutt, H. L.

Edmundson, S. H. Dimon, W. T. Hamby, W. A. Dodge, R. G. Shankle,
J. B. Allen, Walter Millican, John T. Yarbrough, M. S. Williams,
J. O. Brand, V. P. Scoville, G. Stanley Fraser, Augustus Earnest,
W. P. Carmichael, W. M. Barnett, W. W. Carroll, W. W. Watkins,
Arthur Maness, A. E. Scott, J. C. Logan, E. W. Jones, J. W. Segars,
J. L. Whitehead, E. H. Blackburn, James Moore.