

HISTORY OF NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This cookbook has been published as a part of the 200th year celebration of New Hope United Methodist Church --- a small country church in a beautiful section of Newberry County with a loving, caring, and dedicated congregation always striving to work together to serve God for the betterment of our community.

New Hope United Methodist Church was organized in the year 1795 by Reverend Nathan Boyd and is one of the oldest Methodist Churches in central South Carolina. The present church building was erected in 1901 or 1902. The church's first meeting place was near Billy Lake's Spring under a large pine tree. The first building was a small cabin site about two miles from the present church. The group later moved to the present site and a frame church was built in 1831. In the year 1799 or 1800, Salem Methodist Church on Second Creek was organized near the home of Earl Graham. Salem and New Hope merged in 1835. There is an uncertainty of the disposition of the 1831 church building when the present church was built in 1901 or 1902.

During its two hundred years, New Hope has been affiliated with various circuits and churches. At the present time, we are a part of the Pomaria Charge which consists of New Hope United Methodist Church and Capers Chapel United Methodist Church. Membership at New Hope has flourished and presently there are 162 members with 25 preparatory members. The willingness and generosity of the church's congregation has enabled the church to grow both spiritually and materially.

The first main church renovations were accomplished in 1953 when the church entry was changed, placing double doors in the center of the inside wall of the vestibule and enlarging the areas on either side of the vestibule to form two classrooms. The balcony was also made into two classrooms at that time and sheetrock and celotex were installed. The congregation continued their faithfulness to betterment by underpinning the church in 1957 and erecting the present church sign in 1958. Oak floors were installed in 1959 and the church's first carpet was placed in the aisle and altar areas. New pews were donated in 1961.

Meeting another goal of the church was accomplished in 1963 when the Educational Building was completed and furnished to further enhance the worship at New Hope. Also in 1963, the church was fortunate to have its first Hammond Organ donated. This organ furnished melodious music for the congregation until 1992 when it was replaced with a larger Rodgers Organ.

The first well on the church property was completed in 1965. Shortly thereafter in 1966, frosted glass windows were placed in the church. They were replaced with stained glass windows in 1993. The church was first air conditioned in 1976 with renovations to the system being made in 1987.

Complete renovations of the interior of the church were accomplished in 1982. All wall coverings and floor coverings were removed and replaced with the addition of beautiful stained beams in the ceiling. New lights, wiring, and carpet were also installed. Later in 1984, aluminum siding was placed on the church to help maintain its original wood. Shortly after this feat was accomplished, the tornado of March 1984 destroyed the tallest church steeple and damaged the new siding. By December 1984, everything was once again restored to its original appearance. In 1987, the church ramp and side door were added. Again in 1990, our church steeple suffered major damage from high winds, but was once again quickly restored to its original appearance. Pew cushions were installed in 1993 and during 1994, central air conditioning was installed in the Educational Building.

During the glorious years of our church, many precious donations of worship parables have been presented to the church by loving families. These donations have enhanced the worship services and have provided us many loving memories of our deceased. Also, many accomplishments have been met by the hard work and donations of various organizations within the church. These groups have diligently given of their time and efforts when there seemed to be no way of accomplishing some of our major projects. Our congregation is proud of the many accomplishments of this church during its two hundred years and we salute the memories of our loved ones and their strengths in making our church what it is today.

The following list beginning in 1870 shows the ministers who have faithfully served New Hope United Methodist Church:

1870 – A. J. Cauthen	1910 – S. C. Morris
1871 – A. P. Avant	1913 – D. Pettus Boyd
1872 – H. W. Whitaker	1915 – W. A. Duckworth
1873 – D. D. Dantzler	1917 – J. E. Strickland
1877 – M. M. Boyd	1918 – J. M. Mason
1878 – W. P. Meadors	1920 – D. C. Gregory
1880 – J. W. Kelly	1921 – H. H. Merritt
J. S. Porter	1922 – R. L. Doggett
1881 – A. J. Stokes	1923 – J. H. Montgomery
T. M. White	1926 – C. R. Anderson
J. C. Counts	1929 – A. O. Sutton
1882 – A. J. Stokes	1929 – George Duffie
J. W. Neely	1930 – T. D. George
J. C. Counts	1933 – J. F. Ford
1883 – M. Brown	1934 – C. N. Potts
W. H. Hodges	1937 – W. F. Johnson
1884 – M. Brown	1938 – A. E. Smith
G. R. Whitaker	1941 – Q. E. Gunter
1885 – M. Brown	1950 – A. E. Becknell
G. H. Waddell	1953 – T. E. Derrick
1886 – M. M. Bradham	1956 – Weston Stevens
J. M. Steadman	1957 – Thomas P. Poston
1887 – M. M. Bradham	1960 – John P. Griffith
A. W. Attaway	1966 – Charles M. Rector
1889 – M. M. Bradham	1967 – Albert L. Cox
H. C. Mouzon	1973 – Douglas Lewis
1890 – J. B. Traywick	1975 – Ronald Pettit
1893 – D. D. Dantzler	1976 – Buster Scruggs
1894 – D. Tiller	1980 – Clark Hughes
1896 – E. G. Price	1981 – Richard Rogers-Berry
1899 – W. H. Arial	1985 – Sheila Rogers
1901 – W. B. Wharton	1989 – Jerry Price
1902 – G. R. Shaffer	1990 – Mary Jane Walden Heape
1904 – J. K. McCain	1993 – George Workman
1906 – H. W. Whitaker	