

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Calvary Presbyterian Church, organized in 1870, located on North Vanderhorst Street, Winnsboro, S. C., was organized under the auspices of the Freedman's Board of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Rev. Willard Richardson was sent by the Freedman's Board to establish a Presbyterian Boarding School (Richardson School) and a church (Calvary). The Richardson Presbyterian School was one of the first schools for Negroes in the county and state and thus the pioneer of education for Negro youth. The Richardson School and Calvary were vital forces in the religious and educational life of the Negro community. The ministers of Calvary, who also served as principals of Richardson School, visited the homes, encouraging the parents to send their children to school and were instrumental in securing textbooks and supplies.

The first minister of Calvary was the Rev. Willard Richardson. Two of the founders were Ed Henry and Lazarus Johnson. Early trustees were Jesse P. Lyles, Charles R. Russell and George McDill. Other ministers were the Revs. J. C. Watkins; I. D. Davis; J. A. Tillman (1895-1905); J. E. Jackson; M. A. Ward; M. J. Jackson; Elijah Gregg; M. T. Wash; A. U. Frierson; G. M. Ulmer (1926-1939); Officers at this time were: Steward; T. T. McRae; Elders: A. Russel, Clerk of Session; R. P. Russell, Chairman; J. W. McDowell, Clerk of Church and R. Montgomery, Treasurer. Deacons: T. T. McRae and A. Harmon. Secretary of the Official Board; T. T. McRae.

Women's Missionary Society -

Jessie Russell, President; Laretto Ulmer, Vice President; Mary A. Wade, Secretary and Hettie Russell, Treasurer.

Sunday Church School Officers -

J. W. McDowell, Superintendent; R. Montgomery, Assistant Supt.; Miss Maud Roesborough, Secretary; R. Montgomery, Treasurer.

Sunday School Teachers -

Miss Maud Roseborough, Beginners; Miss Carrie Henry, Primary; Mr. T. T. McRae, Juniors; Mrs. Laretto Ulmer, Intermediate and Rev. G. M. Ulmer, Senior.

Christian Education Officers -

Robert Baxter, President; Miss Anna Lee Baxter, Vice President; A. Roseborough, Secretary and Miss Ruby M. McRae, Treasurer.

Chairman of Committees -

Prayer Meeting, R. P. Russell; Flowers, Mrs. M. Harmon; Entertainment, Mrs. Jessie Russell; Missionary, Mrs. Hettie Russell and Lookout Committee, Mrs. C. M. McRae.

Rev. Charles W. Talley (1939-1944); Rev. R. G. Toatley (1945-1957).

Rev. James H. Hudson (1957-1983) honorably retired.

When Rev. Hudson began his service the session was composed of Charlie Heath, Jr.; Charleie Heath, Sr.; Willie W. Toatley. Trustees: John C. Wade, Samuel W. Wade; Dave Gunthrope and Simon M. Davis, Sr.

Early in the 1960s the interior of the sanctuary was remodeled, pews, carpeting and pulpit furniture were bought; gas heat was installed and other improvements were made.

The Rotary System for Elders and Deacons was initiated on 1 January 1960 with the following classes of Elders:

Class #1 - Three years -

Charlæe Heath, Sr.

Willie W. Toatley

John C. Wade

Class #2 - Two years -

Charlie Heath, Jr.

Alexander Russell

Class #3 - One year

Dave Gunthrope

Samuel W. Wade

The following were elected as Deacons to be ordained and installed on 10 January 1960:

Mrs. Rosa T. Heath

Mrs. Lucinda Murphy

Mrs. Jessie Russell

Mr. Charlie Peay

Mrs. Lottie M. Howard was elected as a Deacon on 10 January 1960, and they all were ordained and installed.

Coulter C. Henry was elected an Elder, ordained and installed for two years (2) 1 January 1961.

The Deacons were placed on the Rotary System and into classes 1 January 1961:

Class #1 - Three years -

Mrs. Lottie M. Howard

Mrs. Lucinda Murphy

Class #2 - Two years -

Mrs. Rosa T. Heath

Mrs. Jessie Russell

Class #3 - One year -

Mr. Charleie Peay

In November 1962 the first two (2) women were elected Elders: Mrs. Lottie M. Howard and Ms Virginia L. Roseborough.

Ms Margaret A. Roseborough was appointed Trustee by the Session (First female member of the board).

From then until now all boards are represented with women and youth.

ORGANIZATIONS

Since the church's inception great stress has been placed on the religious training of the youth through its church school and Daily VACation Bible School. During the early years Calvary was a pioneer in Vacation Bible School and served not only its youth but the young people of the other churches in the community. The teachers attend workshops in the Christian Faith and Action Curriculum which enables them to present the ideas of the church in a changing world. Mrs. Rosa T. Heath retired in 1968 as Church School Superintendent and Treasurer after twenty-four (24) years of service. Mrs. Lottie M. Howard succeeded her as Superintendent.

Some other organizations are the Presbyterian Women; Presbyterian Men.

In 1980 extensive renovations were completed by brick veneering the church building and repainting the interior. At the completion of this work a 'Corner Stone' was laid and dedicated with the assistance of the Masonic Order, of which several members are affiliated, both men and women.

By: Evelyn U. Henry