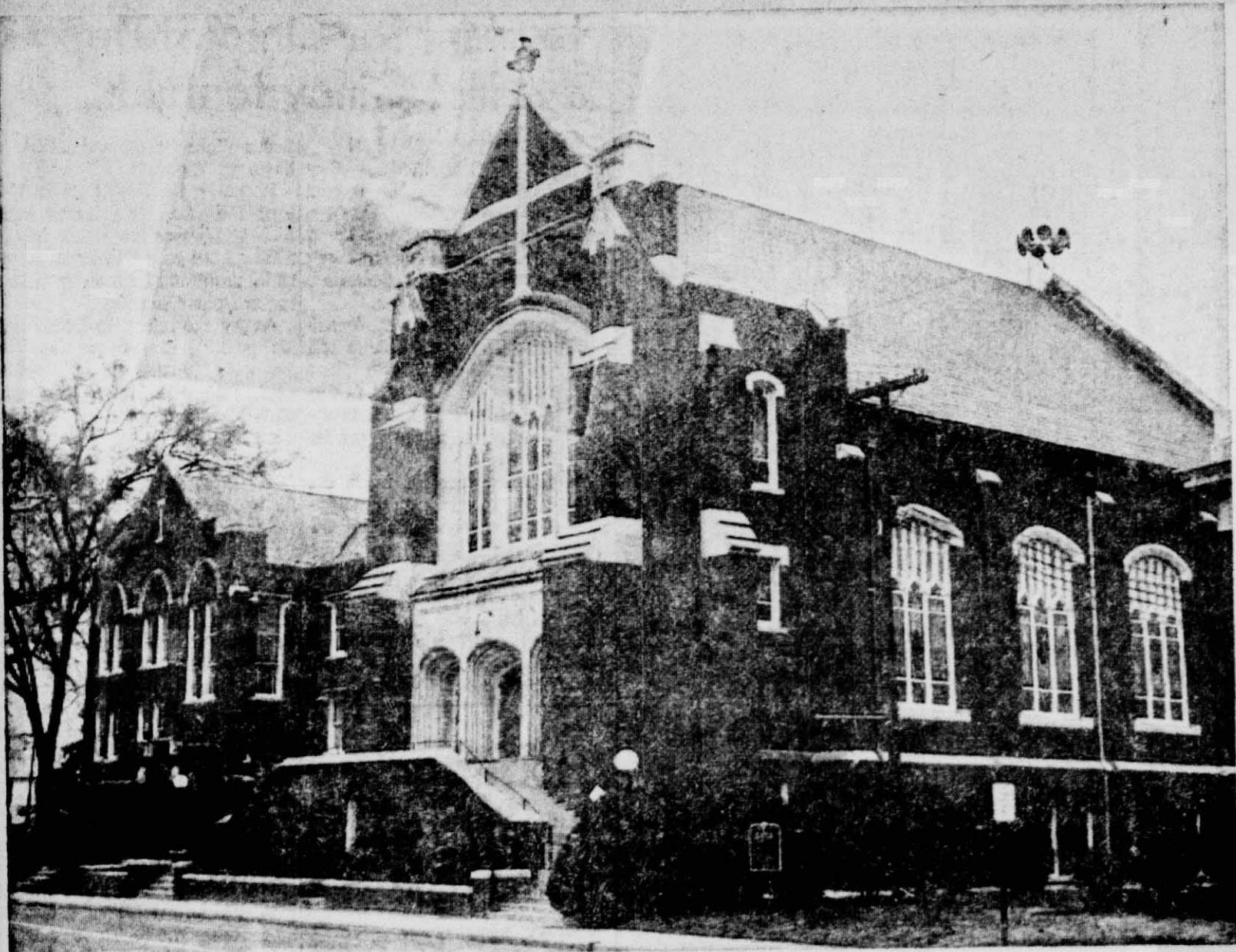


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Rock Hill, S.C. - Churches - Methodist



Present sanctuary of St. John's Methodist Church is on Oakland Avenue
Fires destroyed two earlier buildings of Methodists in Rock Hill

St. John's Methodists trace history to six early Rock Hill residents

Traveling Methodist ministers probably preached on occasion in Rock Hill before 1856, but it is from that year that members of St. John's Methodist Church date Methodist work in Rock Hill.

Sometime during 1856, six persons met and organized a Methodist church in the new town. These six included Mrs. Richard Springs, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Elam and an elderly Negro woman whose name is unrecorded.

In spite of the fact that two men were among the charter members of the church, tradition in the church says that other men were reluctant to join the Methodists, who heard sermons by itinerant preachers in Pine Grove School house. At one time, Shuford Marks is said to have been the only male member of the church.

Until 1858 the Rock Hill congregation was served as part of the Yorkville Circuit. In 1885 the Rock Hill Circuit was established and in 1890 Rock Hill's growth and a constantly increas-

ing congregation brought the establishment of a full-time station in Rock Hill.

Pastors who served during this period included John W. North, Landy Wood, E. A. Brice, Daniel May, A. S. Link, James T. Kilgo, A. R. Bennick, J. M. Cline, J. S. Nelson, M. E. Hoyle, M. A. Connelly, J. E. Watson, T. W. Munnerlyn, R. W. Barber, J. M. Boyd, J. M. Fridy, J. C. Stoll, J. B. Tra-
wick, John C. Kilgo, R. H. Jones,

T. C. O'Dell and R. A. Childs.

Rev. E. O. Watson was the first pastor of the church after it became a full time station in 1890.

The church's first building was dedicated in 1857 with Rev. John W. North as pastor. It stood at the corners of Black and Hampton streets and was a two story building. The top floor was used by the Rock Hill Masonic Lodge.

This first church, which was destroyed by fire some time after the Methodists moved to their second building, also figures in the history of Rock Hill Baptists who used it after the Methodists

left.

The second building of the church was on Main Street. The building, which cost \$4,250, was a town landmark because in its tower was the town's only outdoor clock. People depended on the Methodist clock for the time of day much as they depended on the town well down the street for water.

The clock was given to the village of Rock Hill by J. M. Ivey. Capt. L. M. Davis placed it in the church in 1875 when the church was built.

Fire nearly destroyed the second church in 1897. An adjoining building burned to the ground and intense heat warped one wall of the church. Insurance funds of \$2,000 enabled the church to buy another lot just up the street.

The new building on this lot, dedicated in 1902, also held the town clock, with a new face do-

nated by F. F. Brodie.

The fourth building, this time on Oakland Avenue, was built in 1924 and 1925. The lot on which it was built cost \$40,000. The building and furnishings cost \$158,474, with interest paid up to 1944 when the debt was liquidated totaling \$17,144.

An interesting item which must be added to the cost of the building is the rent paid on a tent which housed the church temporarily. This item of \$695 raises the total cost of the building to nearly a quarter of a million dollars. The building is certainly worth a great deal more today.

There are 1,600 members in the church which once despaired of having any male members. Un-

der the leadership of Rev. L. D. Bolt, the church continues its efforts in behalf of Christ.

Hardin named to St. John's church

ROCK HILL — Elliott Wannamaker Hardin has been appointed to serve at St. John's Methodist Church for the 1963-64 year.

A native of Chester, Hardin is a graduate of Wofford College and Duke University.

Hardin was licensed to preach in 1938, ordained deacon in 1940 and ordained elder in 1941. He has served in Winston-Salem, N. C., Graniteville, Clemson, Spartanburg, Gaffney and Charleston.

He is married to the former Miss Margaret Ormond of Durham, N. C. They have four children, Elliot Jr., Marvin Ormond, Margaret Katrina and Harriet.

Evening Herald
June 18, 1963



6-Evening Herald, Rock Hill Saturday, Mar. 24, 1962

Herald
March 13, 1972

DR. LUPO SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME VISITING CHURCH MEMBERS
During retirement, he plans to visit all former churches (Photo by Bob Ford)