

## *1911 History of Liberty Wesleyan Church 2015*

### **OUR HISTORY**

*The Wesleyan Church is a Protestant, evangelical, holiness denomination with a rich heritage.*

We have seen it as our special mission to emphasize the message of "full salvation from all sin." We teach that a victorious Christian life is possible for all believers through the experience of both forgiveness of sins and the filling of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### **Where We Came From**

The name "Wesleyan" is in honor of John Wesley, a priest in the Church of England who was the inspiration and founder of the Methodist movement. It was their disciplined routine (or method) of spiritual devotion that earned Wesley and a few of his friends in ministry the nickname "Methodists" beginning in 1735. The name stuck later to the unique new organizational structure Wesley designed to provide prayer and spiritual care for tens of thousands of converts who found Christ through their work.

Wesley was an outstanding Oxford scholar, yet regarded himself as "a man of one book," the Bible. It was while studying the Bible that he received assurance of his own salvation through faith. It was the Bible which motivated his vision for offering Christ to the common people of England in a way that led to that nation's greatest spiritual revival. It was biblical truth that inspired Wesley to develop a school for orphans, job programs and medical assistance for the poor, efforts to reform inhumane prisons, and arguments for the abolition of slavery, a great evil of his time.

*Confidence in the Bible as "the only and sufficient rule for Christian faith and practice" (to use Wesley's own words) is still a hallmark of The Wesleyan Church today.*

Although we respect his example, John Wesley is not the person Wesleyans worship. "A Methodist," he said, "is . . . one who loves the Lord his God with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his mind, and with all his strength." In fact, "perfect love" for God and for other people is the priority goal for Christian disciples emphasized in our churches.

### **The first Methodists came to America in 1766 and organized the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784.**

In 1843 a group of pastors and local churches left that denomination because of their strong antislavery convictions and their preference for a more democratic form of church government. They adopted the name of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, later changed to The Wesleyan Methodist Church in America. A number of smaller groups of churches merged with them over time, especially between 1948 and 1966, including the Alliance of Reformed Baptists of Canada. During the late 1800s, a widespread emphasis on the teaching of holiness swept across various denominations in America. This resulted in the formation of holiness unions (groups of people interested in encouraging this teaching in their own denominations), rescue missions, camp meeting associations, and new congregations. Mergers among many of these groups from 1882 on eventually resulted in the organization of the Pilgrim Holiness Church in 1922.

In 1968, The Wesleyan Church was created when The Wesleyan Methodist Church in America and the Pilgrim Holiness Church united in order to serve Christ more effectively together. As part of its historic past, The Wesleyan Church celebrates the involvement of its early leaders in the first ordination of women for Christian ministry in 1853. It was also the first denomination ever to adopt a formal statement of faith in "entire sanctification," God's work of making believers pure in heart, holy in character, and empowered with the Spirit of Jesus for witness and service.

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God has richly blessed the Liberty Wesleyan Church and the surrounding community, not only with His presence and power, but also with what the world might consider "ordinary people". Closer examination has shown these people to be dedicated, spirit-filled examples of what God can do with a surrendered life.

The spiritual tone of the community has its roots deeply intertwined with the history of the Flat Rock Methodist Church, which began in 1831. Most of our "Mothers and Fathers in Israel" had their early training in that church and many of our family members are interred in their church cemetery.

The history of Liberty Wesleyan Church began with a spirit of revival which moved through our community in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Challey Strader were instrumental in getting Rev. W. L. Allred to conduct a tent meeting on the Sylvana School grounds, now Larry and Ramona Angel and Brenda and Doug Suggs home sites.

From this tent meeting a class was organized on the third Sunday in August 1910. This class held meetings in "*The Hall*" (a two-story community building located between the old Wilson Store and a blacksmith shop behind where Cleo Simpson's feed mill still stands on Highway 158 East. This was a little place for people to get together on a daily basis and just talk about what was going on in life).



The Price-Wilson store was a general store and community center. Folks came in to buy shoes, cloth, food, harness ware, hardware, cheese and crackers and to sit on nail kegs to swap stories. Located across from the present church, the store stood next to the hall where the original class meetings began the Liberty Wesleyan Church.

In February of 1911, the class was officially organized as a church and twelve charter members were received into the Liberty Wesleyan Methodist Church. They were Challey and Emma Strader and their son Paul Strader, Effie Michaux (Scoggins), J.W. Powers, Will and Pearl Angel, Cleveland Allen, Willie and Mary Daniel and Early and Ollie Simpson. Challey Strader gave the new church an acre of land near the Price Mill Pond. While the church was being built, meetings continued to be held in *The Hall*.

The original church was built on a hill. It was necessary to set the church on pillars, making one end high enough for the young boys like Paul Strader and Early Daniel to stand under it. Six men cut logs for the building: Challey Strader, Willie Daniel, Joe Thomas, Lee Daniel, Lonie Daniel and Cleveland Allen. Once, a service was being conducted during a severe storm and the church was moved an inch on its foundation. Everyone ran out of the building except Joe Thomas and Willie Daniel.

Rev. Nora Andrews pastored the young church from 1911-1912. A courageous woman, she drove a horse and buggy from Greensboro alone. She had to travel a dirt road, and ford both Reedy Fork and Haw River to reach Liberty Church. When her horse died, Challey Strader gave her another.

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From 1912 - 1913, Rev. G.R. and Mary E. Mines of Colfax pastored the Liberty Church which was then part of the Shady Grove Charge. In 1913, Mrs. Andrews returned and was joined in her pastoral duties by her husband, R.E. Andrews. In 1914, he was listed as the pastor.



The old Price Home, in its heyday. It stood just across the road from the present church and beside the Price-Wilson store. The house has been home to many of our church family across the years.

From 1915 - 1928 Rev. T.J. Hill pastored. Toward the end of his ministry, the decision was made to move the church up close to Highway 158, which at that time was only a dirt road. It was originally placed a little further back from the road, then moved forward to its permanent location.

The moving was done at a cost of about one hundred dollars, which was paid by Early Simpson and Willie Daniel. It took two weeks to move the building. Logs were cut and rollers were used under the building. Bob Neal (Jill Strader's grandfather) loaned his stump puller for a winch rig. The building would be pulled a short distance by two horses, a log picked up from behind and put in front, and then the steps were repeated again and again. Demetrius Strader (Challey Strader's cousin) did most of the pulling. Newt and Will Barham helped also.

Since the move took two weeks, one service was held halfway between the two sites. During the move, Mary Daniel was very concerned that they not tear up the building as they moved it.



The Lanier-Price-Simpson mill before the third story was added to the structure in 1916. The original mill has been dated back to the late 1700's and was operated by the grandfather of the famous southern poet Sidney Lanier. It stood below and to the right of the original church site.

Rev. Hill lived in Colfax and every other weekend would ride the train from Colfax through Greensboro to Summerfield. Willie Daniel would pick him up at the Summerfield station and drive him to the church for a Saturday night service. The minister had not been at church during the moving and did not know it was completed.

Willie Daniel did not tell him about the move and only said they were not going by the old road, but by the store. Little Robert and Early Daniel were in the back giggling all the way about the surprise in store for the preacher.

Will Angel had been the only member buried at the old church site. When Challey Strader later gave an acre of land across the highway from the church for a cemetery, Mr. Angel's coffin was

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moved to the new cemetery and was the first interred there. This cemetery continues to be a lovely place for our church family and friends and is cared for by a faithful cemetery committee. It is mentioned that most of the graves later on were hand dug by Mr. Fred Michaux, a local resident and friend.

In 1928, the Conference separated Liberty Church from the Shady Grove Charge and established a new charge with Hopewell Church in Summerfield. A full-time pastor, Rev. P.J. Parker, was appointed and served for two years. As there was no parsonage at this time, Rev. Parker lived one year on Hwy.150 beyond the dry bridge and the second year in Monroe Winfree's house on Shady Lawn Drive, behind Rose's Day Care off of Summerfield Rd.

The church was growing and attendance was high. However, finances were very low because of the economic crash of 1929. Nearly everyone was farming and only had what they could raise. At that time the church had no utilities to pay as it had no electric lights and no parsonage. Therefore, they were able to manage in spite of the money shortage.

In 1930, the church was talking to Rev. G.F. Settlemyer who wanted to come but needed \$300 to pay off a debt and provide moving expenses. The church did not have the money and everyone was afraid of dealing with banks since so many of them had failed and other banks were so quick to foreclose on mortgaged land. Mary Daniel felt very strongly that Rev. Settlemyer should come. She fasted and prayed for several days and her husband told her to go ahead with her plan. She went to a Greensboro bank and talked to the president. He walked to the counter; got the money the church needed and handed it to her, allowing her to sign a note in her name. She was making 25 cents an hour at Blue Bell, Inc. and paid the entire loan back over the next few years. The way was opened for Rev. Settlemyer to begin his eight year ministry. He had seven children and helped support his family by running a barber shop. Also, two of his children worked at a hosiery mill. This took a burden off of the church since there were many Sundays when no money came in at all. Rev. Settlemyer pastored both the Liberty and Hopewell churches until 1936. Then the charge was divided and Rev. Rambo pastored Hopewell. Rev. Settlemyer continued at Liberty until 1939. During his ministry, an eight-room parsonage was built on a plot of ground given by Mrs. Emma Strader Parrish and her son, Paul Strader.



A picture of the original church after moving to Hwy. 158. Entry was in the side of the bell tower through double paneled doors. The boy in the picture is believe to be Rev. Settlemyer son.

The construction was supervised by Bill Parrish and A.H. Price. The trees for the framework were cut from nearby farms and sawed at Strader sawmill, then operated by Madison C. Parrish. Again, the men of the church worked together to get the job done.

Rev. Frank Dennard followed Rev. Settlemyer and served the church for two years. During this time, the old church was remodeled: the bell tower was removed, four Sunday School rooms were added across the back (this shortened the size of the original sanctuary), and the building

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was brick veneered. Roy Walker was secretary of Sunday School at the time and loaned the church \$700 to pay for the remodeling. Later he refused to accept repayment and burned the note.



The church as it appeared after the remodeling was done during the ministry of Rev. Frank Dennard and as it remained for many years. This picture was taken in 1963.

Rev. Boyd Kistler was the next pastor and served for two years. He was followed by Rev. Oscar A. Keiger who resigned during the second year of his ministry to work in Georgia. While there, he served four years as conference vice-president.

Rev. W.R. Medley supplied the unexpired term of Rev. Keiger and served the church for an additional year.

Across the years, the church family has shared the work of taking care of the church grounds and buildings even as they do today. For example, for many years, Cleo Angel used a hay mower behind his grey team, Nell and Frank, to mow the grass on the very large front lawn of the church and in the cemetery. The church was heated in the winter by a pot-bellied wood stove set in the front center aisle. The men and boys of the church shared the responsibility of firing the stove and having the church warm for services.

In August of 1946, Rev. Charles K. Gentry was called and served the church for one year. He then retired from the pastorate because of ill health. During his service, the wood-burning stove was replaced by a coal furnace. Also during his ministry, the first church wedding at Liberty was performed. Kathleen Simpson married Rev. Gentry's youngest son Melvin.

In 1947, Rev. Paul Whiteside came to the church and served four years. During this time, the first bathroom and water heater were installed in the parsonage.

Rev. Harold Rickman was appointed to serve in 1951, and began the most dynamic growth period yet experienced in the church. During this time, the church furnace was converted from coal to oil and several rooms of the parsonage were remodeled.



Rev. Harold Rickman holds a Baptism in the Lee James pond on Hwy 158.

In 1955, Rev. Sidney A. Loggins began what was to become the longest ministry at Liberty, and which would encompass the largest building program. During the first four years, a youth-education building was begun. The basement and outside were completed so that much-needed Sunday School rooms could be used. The first Vacation Bible School was held in June 1956.

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In 1959, Rev. O.A. Keiger returned to serve Liberty church for four years. The parsonage and church were repainted and a new roof was put on the parsonage.

In 1963, Rev. Sidney and Janice Loggins returned. During the following years, a building spirit moved everyone to work together to see the church advance Christ's Kingdom. A building fund was established, and many projects were put into action to raise needed money. The youth-education building was completed; the church was remodeled inside. The brick sandblasted and a cross was added to the front of the church. Cleo Angel remodeled the parsonage downstairs and added a new bath upstairs.

Also in 1963, a chapter of the Christians Youth Crusaders was organized at the church. This was started as a mid-week study for children to teach them the Bible and scripture memorization. In 1967, Junior Church was begun to serve the children

June 1968, saw another dramatic change for Liberty. *The Wesleyan Methodist* denomination, and the *Pilgrim Holiness* denomination, merged into one body and became *The Wesleyan Church* of today. A complete history of the merger can be found at <https://www.wesleyan.org/230/general-conference-journals>

In 1968, the Sanctuary Choir was organized under the direction of Janice Loggins.

As the church continued to increase in membership, it was felt that we needed a newer and larger building. The first meeting to plan a new church was November 12, 1972. For the next four years, the church family worked hard to raise the necessary money.

Gene Barr built the cross of lights to use for raising money for the building fund. One of the 182 bulbs was lighted for each \$30 donation. There were rags-to-riches sales, auctions conducted by Glenn Hudson, ice cream sales (Janice Loggins made 19 freezers of ice cream in one day) and Bobby Simpson cooked untold gallons of stew using Cleo Simpson's recipe. Bobby and Virginia Simpson also spent much time cooking chicken suppers to raise money for the building fund. By the end of four years over \$38,000 had been raised for a new church.

In 1973, Rev. Tim and Judy Kenoyer join Liberty as the new Youth Director.

In 1976, Mr. and Mrs. P.H. Strader, Jr. gave land adjoining the church property to provide adequate space for the planned structure.

Also occurring in 1976, several member appreciation days were held honoring some of the older members.

January 18, 1976, was *Paul Strader Day*. He was born in 1902, saved at nine, and was a charter member. Through the years, he has served in many positions and is especially remembered for his 20 years as a dedicated Sunday School Superintendent.

In February 1976, we had *Mary Paschal Daniel Day*. Born in 1886 and saved at twelve, she also became a charter member. Serving in many offices in the church, she was noted as a class leader and Sunday School teacher. Her prayer life reached out to everyone in the community, especially the young people. The calluses on her knees were visible witness of her deep prayer life.

March 14, 1976 was *Mattie Pearl Allen Angel Williams Day*. Born in 1889 and saved in her early teens, she too was a charter member who served faithfully for many years. She was the

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Sunday School teacher for the young adults for 35 years. She often carried an old lantern and walked to visit her class members. She also used the lantern to walk to church at night.

On September 22, 1977, Strader & Sons Construction Company broke ground for the new church. It was a happy day for everyone present. As the digging began in earnest, Mary Daniel remarked, "Doesn't the dirt smell good". Five days later the footings were poured and everything began to take shape. As the brickwork went up, our hearts greatly rejoiced. The ladies of the church often-prepared refreshments for the crews as the work progressed.

The last funeral in the old church was Mrs. Alice Jewel Parrish Daniel, and the first one in the new church was Cleveland Allen, another charter member of Liberty Wesleyan Church



Dedication was held November 5, 1978. We met in the old church for service. The last song sung was "In The Sweet By and By". We then marched to the new church, and P.H. Strader unlocked the door. Rev. Sidney Loggins and Rev. Watson Black, District Superintendent, led us into the new sanctuary. The first song was "Let's Just Praise The Lord". It was a time of sadness at leaving the old church and great joy at entering into the Lord's blessings in a new church. *(The square footage of the new church was 10,344 for both floors)* The old church was later torn down and the space used for much needed parking.

The building program did not stop with the new church. In the summer of 1979, Rev. Loggins moved to Wesleyan Academy. During the three weeks before the new pastor would arrive, the parsonage was remodeled. Many church members worked at cleaning and repairing as Milton Todd did most of the carpentry work.

Miraculously, the work was done in time for the new pastor, Rev. Lyle Geist and his wife Carolyn's arrival in 1979. Rev. Geist was a dynamic preacher and excellent in Wednesday night Bible Study. Carolyn Geist continued the work Janice Loggins had begun with the Sanctuary Choir.

Under Rev. Geist the youth building and parsonage received new siding. The grounds, church, youth building and parsonage were a beautiful witness to the faithfulness and willing spirit of a hard working congregation and most of all to the never-failing presence and provision of the Lord.

Rev. Geist and the LBA agreed to purchase a bus. Rev. Geist on Sunday mornings would drive around the community to gather those who wanted to come to church but had no way to attend.

Rev. Geist and his wife served here for two years.

Rev. Forbis Kivett followed in 1981. We enjoyed the ministry of another dedicated and caring pastor. He and his lovely wife, Raynita, brought a freshness and brightness to our church family. Forbis led the Sanctuary Choir, as well as bringing soul-searching messages. The Associate Pastor was Randy Clay. Our Sunday School Superintendent was Laymon Vernon. Children's Church was directed by Patty McCormick.

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Lonnie Daniel relates the following story about the bus that was purchased by the church when Lyle Geist was pastor here at Liberty Wesleyan. It was still being used when Dr. Forbis Kivett came to be our pastor.

*The bus was painted certain colors; I believe it was green and tan with the name Liberty Wesleyan Church on the side to make it stand out.*

*One Friday night as I was coming home from a wedding rehearsal in Reidsville NC, I noticed a bus coming toward me having the same colors as our bus. When I got in our neighborhood I discovered that our bus was missing and after asking several people from the church as to who would be using it, it was understood that it had been stolen. Word was put out on the local radio stations asking anyone seeing the bus to please report it to the police in the hope that we would be able to get it back.*

*We received a telephone call on the next Monday or Tuesday stating that it had been abandoned on 421 South and that we could send someone to bring it back home.*

*When Laymon Vernon went to get the bus, he was told that our choir robes and books were in the back of the bus. Those items were not ours. It was discovered that the person who took our bus had broken into a church in Greensboro and took those items. I guess he was going to start his own church ministry on wheels.*

A building consciousness continued in our church and a concern that all financial obligations would be met. In September of 1981, the building fund seemed to stagnate and incoming funds were running about \$2000 behind the amount needed. Ruthie Price, a dear widow with limited means spoke of her concern to the congregation and pledged to give \$100 to the fund on the following Sunday. She challenged others to do the same. On the next Sunday, \$2410 was given and the fund began to move again.



In March of 1984, another blessing was added to the church. U.T. Price deeded three acres of land across Price Mill Road to the church. The land where the original class meetings were held before the first church was built has come full circle and is a part of both our history and our future. There is now room for expansion of any type that the church feels will be needed.

There is so much more to remember for faithful workers in the church who have dedicated themselves to the Lord and to the church-body of Christ.

In 1991, Rev. Kivett made the move to First Wesleyan in Kannapolis, N.C. Rev. Randy and Stacey Clay also made the move to Kannapolis in 1992.

After Rev. Kivett announced that he was leaving Liberty, the board contacted the District Superintendent for names of available pastors. The board was given the name of Rev. Mike Rash. Three board members Laymon Vernon, Larry Angel, and Milton Todd met with Rev. Rash at Ryan's Steakhouse in Easley, S.C.

In 1991 Rev. Rash agreed to come to Liberty to give a Wednesday evening devotional. A vote was taken and Rev. Rash, wife Kathy, and daughter Mary Kathryn moved into the parsonage. Before they came, several improvements were made to the parsonage, such as refinishing the hardwood floors, and painting. Kathy became choir director and worked with the youth along

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with Herb and Lisha Gibson. Kathy also served as a District Life Corp Director. During their time here another daughter, Emily, was born to the Rash family.



Rev. Rash also made the major improvement of having the church parking lot paved. In early January 1994, with District Superintendent, Henry Williams, Rev. Sidney Loggins, Rev Forbis Kivett, and Rev. Mike Rash, the congregation held a note burning of the mortgage papers on the church. The congregation rejoiced with no church payments ahead.

Rev. Rash also, had a bus ministry each Sunday through the community. In 1995, Rev. Rash decided to move to the military to be a Chaplain for our soldiers.

During the remainder of 1995, through 1996, there was no official Pastor at Liberty. Retired Pastor Sidney Loggins, and Milton Todd, filled in during the months as we continued to search for a new Pastor.

In 1996, Rev. David Surrett, and wife Rebecca, were voted in to serve the Liberty family. The LBA decided instead of trying to renovate the old parsonage they would purchase a home that was on the other side of the church for the new parsonage. The property had at one time belonged to P.H. Strader and Ernest James. The Surrett's moved in. The loan on the parsonage was paid off in 2005.

Rev. Tim Studaker, and wife Lynda, from Michigan, were hired as the Youth Pastor later in 1996. They moved in to the old parsonage. They returned to Michigan in early 1998.

Rebecca Surrett took over the role as director of the choir. The name was changed to the Celebration Choir and continues as that today.

In January 1997, the church's regular glass windows were updated to beautiful Stained Glass Windows, which were donated by members of the church. These windows display the life of Christ from birth to Ascension.

In 1998, Phil Surrett, with his wife Hope by his side, became the Youth Pastor. In 2003, Phil obtained his Ministerial License. In 2006, Phil, along with his wife Hope, daughters Grace and Jordyn moved, to Covington Wesleyan Church to become their Youth Pastor.

A new Baby Grand Piano was bought for the church. In order to pay for it, we made donations toward a key on the piano. Today we still have the beautiful sound of the Baby Grand.



In 2000, the church LBA and congregation voted to build a new Family Life Center (FLC).

The old parsonage would be torn down and the new Family Life Center would go up in its place.



Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Family Life Center in 2000. Pastor David Surrett, with Trustee's Herb Gibson Sr.,

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and Laymon Vernon. The church sold bonds in order to build it.



The front part of the Family Life Center was completed in spring 2001. Over the next couple of years, the back part was completed as the Wesleyan Women raised money and the Wesleyan Men did the work to complete it. *(The square footage of the FLC is 7,616)*

In August of 2004, P.H. and Jill Strader donated 0.752 acres of additional land to the existing cemetery.

In June of 2009, Rev. David and Rebecca Surrett made the move to Covington Wesleyan, in Reidsville, N.C., after 14 years of service to Liberty.

In September of 2009, Liberty welcomed its new pastoral family, Rev. Danny and Tanna Janes. Rev. Danny and Tanna are both natives of Indiana. They have two children, Amanda (Wes) Boyd, and Cameron (Emily) Janes. They have served in the local church ministry of the Wesleyan Church since 1981. Prior to coming to Summerfield, Rev. Janes served as Pastor of: Morganton Wesleyan (Morganton, N.C.), Firestone Wesleyan (Gastonia, N.C.), Millikin Wesleyan (Toronto, Canada), and Lighthouse Community Church (Kalamazoo, Michigan).

Since coming to Liberty, Pastor Janes led the church through a major sanctuary renovation in 2011.



Sanctuary 1976



Sanctuary 2011

In 2014, the church raised money to buy a new soundboard and sound equipment that was much needed. Liberty anticipates an exciting future of impacting our community for Jesus Christ -- as God continues to lead *HIS* church.

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The church family is rich indeed with the blessings of God. We have departments in our church to serve all of the church, and to provide opportunities for all age levels of the church family to serve the Lord.

### **Wesleyan Women**

Currently the Wesleyan Women provide an enormous amount of time and money to help with special projects around the church. Their biggest fundraiser is Chicken Pies. Over the years, they have gone through several name changes.

- ♥ The Women's Missionary Society
- ♥ The Wesleyan Women International
- ♥ The Wesleyan Women (W.W)

While at Liberty, Raynita Kivett was the W.W. director. Her vision was the beginning of the monthly Wesleyan Women dinner meetings. After leaving, this outreach continued under the leadership of Co-Directors Mary Todd and Jan Marshall. The monthly meals began to turn into a specific theme from Christmas, Easter, months of the year and different Holidays. They would end the season with a Mother-Daughter Banquet in May. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and the giving to each other and our community.

Under the leadership of Caroline Dalton, and other members, the Wesleyan Women were able to published Cookbooks and had several theme nights ,50's nights, and Hee Haw to name a couple. W.W. made visits and sang to our shut-ins at home and in nursing homes during Christmas. The Wesleyan Women always have a Community Fall Bazaar in which the women cook breakfast, lunch, have a Bake Sale, Silent Auction and games for the kids. They also had several Easter Bake Sales. All money raised by the Wesleyan Women is used for projects around the church and community. In 2011 the W.W., were able to give the church refurbishing committee over \$10,000 for the cost of the carpet for the new Sanctuary. In 2013, under the leadership of Carla Sharpe, the Wesleyan Women continue to meet and raise money for various projects around the church, community, and the world.

### **YMWB (Young Missionary Workers Band)**

Was started in 1907 and continues today as WKFM (Wesleyan Kids for Missions). . It was originally, and still remains, a program through the Wesleyan Women to make children aware of missions and missionaries, and it was to be slated at each church to be held once per month. The group continues to collect money that is sent to our missionaries, as when the group was formed in 1907. Some of our former directors were: Louise Daniel, Virginia Hopkins, Frances Paschal, Pat Morgan, Patty McCormick, Benita Lindstrom, Tammy Moore, Jo Ann James, and Rosie Kenchel. Our current WKFM Director is Michelle Lindstrom.

**CYC (Christian Youth Crusaders)**. In 1963, CYC was started as a mid-week study for children to teach them the Bible and scripture memorization.

As time went on, the group was split into different groups. The Children's Group, and the Youth Group. Judy Williamson was the children's director in early 2000. In 2003, Karen Hudson was appointed the director of the group, with the help of Beverly Koontz. Later, the name was changed to: Faith Weavers Friends, then Pioneers Clubhouse. In 2011 Awana Clubs replaced this as well as other programs offered by our Spiritual Formation Department from Headquarters. In 2014, leadership of Awana Clubs was capably assumed by Brad and Amy Suggs – and their outstanding team.

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### **WESLEYAN YOUTH**

As our children grow, they continue their learning through the Wesleyan Youth. As new leaders have come, they give their individual group different names (Good Soldiers, Walk on Water Youth, to name a couple.) Several of their directors were: J.D. Thomas, Miss Frances Paschal, Mrs. Helen Kington, Jerry Paschal, Tim and Judy Kenoyer, Milton & Mary Todd, Susan Long, Randy and Stacey Clary, David and Patty McCormick, Herb and Lisha Gibson, Tim and Lynda Studaker, Phil and Hope Surrent, Travis and Autumn Ward, Roman Hendricks. In 2014, we were blessed with the addition of Pastor Jon Christ, and Kristian Gwyn, to our Liberty Youth staff.

**YOUNG COUPLES** As our youth become adults, they move on to the Young Couples (formally Young Adults), which is the ages 18- 30. This group which meets during the Sunday School hour, consists of college, working singles and married couples. It is under the direction of Cindy and Lee Greeson.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIRS** over the years have been directed by: Ramona Angel, Beth Hopkins, Beverly Koontz, Karen Hudson, Angel Tharrington, Rene Angiulli and Virginia Kenchel.

### **NOTABLE SERVICE**

Early Daniel served 36 years as treasurer of our church. J.D. Thomas followed him and served 29 years as treasurer. Larry Angel became treasure for 25 years then turned the position over to Angel Tharrington in 2005. In 2012, Larry Angel took over for 1 year, then Robert Jones in 2013 became Treasurer.

Ruth Parrish Lance served the church for many years as church clerk and was the senior adult Sunday School teacher for about 40 years. Pearl Williams was the Young Adult teacher for 35 years. Ollie Simpson taught for 15 years and is remembered for a radiant testimony. Viola Morgan taught a Bible Picture Card Class, each child took home the cards to remember their lesson. Mrs. Helen Kington taught Sunday School Classes for 50 years. Ms. Frances Paschal taught Sunday School Classes for 52 years until her retirement in 2011.

Nell Simpson was the Women's Missionary Society president for many years, and is remembered for the beautiful flowers she provided for the church. Bess Epperly also presided over the group for a couple of years.

J.D. Thomas worked many years producing outstanding Christmas and Easter programs, helping to expand the music program and working behind the scenes as head of our audio department. Over the years, Janice Loggins, Carolyn Geist, Forbis Kivett, Peggy Gibson, Becky Surrent, Beth Hopkins, and Mark Kenchel have used their talents in music for the Lord by leading our choirs and congregation. Mamie Wilson, Nell Simpson Hess, Peggy S. Doss, Ruth Parrish Lance, Mildred Flinchum, Helen Vernon, Ramona Angel, Ken Chambers, Beth Hopkins, and Patsy Nicholson, with their piano; and Lonnie Daniel, Judy Kenoyer, and Patsy Nicholson with their organ creates an atmosphere of worship with their music. Ramona Angel brings an accent of beauty to the music with her vibraharp.

In recent years, a contemporary Sunday has been led once a month by: Cameron Janes, Roman Hendricks, and Jon Christ.

Who can number the lives touched by Jill Strader, Frances Paschal, Helen Kington, Peggy Wooten, Peggy Gibson, Jennie Joyce, Evelyn Rierson, Mary Todd, Ramona Angel, and other women of the church as they minister to the community when sickness, death, births, fires, or moves that change the lives of our people.

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Rev. R.E. & Rev. Mary Andrews  
1911-1912, 1914-1915



Rev. T.L. Hill  
1915-1928



P.J. Parker  
1928-1930



Rev. G.F. Settlemyre  
1930-1939



Rev. F. B. Dennard  
1939-1941



Rev. Boyd C. Kistler  
1941-1943



Rev. O.A. Keiger  
1943-1945



Rev. Reitzel Medley  
1945-1946



Rev. C.K. Gentry  
1946 - 1947



Rev. Paul L. Whiteside  
1947 - 1951



Rev. Harold Rickman  
1951-1955



Rev. Sidney A. Loggins  
1955 - 1959



Rev. O.A. Keigher  
1959-1963



Rev. Sidney A. Loggins  
1963 - 1979



Rev. Lyle R. Geist  
1979 - 1981



Rev. Forbis Kivett  
1981-1991



Rev. Michael Rash  
1991-1995



Rev. C. David Surrett  
1996 - 2009



Rev. Danny J. Janes  
2009 -

No Picture was available of  
G. R. & Mary Mines  
1912 - 1913

## **Our Beliefs**

Wesleyans believe in one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Savior of all who put their faith in Him alone for eternal life. We believe that those who are made new in Christ are called to be holy in character and conduct, and can only live this way by being filled with the Lord's Spirit. We believe in the Bible and its sufficiency to establish our faith and conduct. We believe God wills for people everywhere to know Him and be made new in Christ. We believe that the purpose of the Church is to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to reach a lost and fallen world with the gospel of Jesus Christ through its worship, witness, and loving deeds.



Liberty Wesleyan Church continues a strong tradition of faith-walking people who worship together to proclaim the liberty, privilege and responsibility of serving God to all who will hear. As in the past, so shall we serve this present age, our calling to fulfill.

The information in this document was a continuation from what J.D. Thomas had written about the church until 1991. Various members and former Pastors of the church also gave additional information. If there is anything that you feel needs to added or changed, please let Jo Ann James in the church office know.