

History of Inman United Methodist Church

More than one hundred years ago our church had its beginning in a small log house which was built on a $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre wooded area given by Uncle Roland Stubbs. In the deed which was dated February 6, 1849 this building was called a meeting house. It stood in a grove across the road from our present cemetery. The trustees were: Elisha Hill, James Hightower, Mosee Harp and Thomas Turner. It was well attended and during revivals a brush arbor was built to accommodate the crowds, who came from miles around in carriages, wagons, on horseback and on foot.

No record of the pastors of this church has been found but we know that they were real circuit riders and that their churches were far apart. Rev. Alfred Dorman is known to have been one of these. In December 1853 another acre of land was obtained and long before the war between the states a new church was built across the road from the old one. Two new trustees were added at this time - A. W. Haas and William Chambers. The pastor of this church called "Liberty Chapel" lived in Fayetteville and served several other churches.

They sometimes had preaching during the week, and especially on Saturday. This was no occasion for dress and the men would often stop their plows, strip off the gear and ride to church in their work clothes. Day schools were scarce and the Sunday School teacher often taught the "blue back" speller along with the Bible. In this way many were taught to read who would have had no other opportunity to learn. There was no musical instrument in the old log church and none in this one until some years later when an organ was put in it. The members brought their own hymn books from home and sang some of the same good old songs that we sing to-day.

It was not customary to put flowers in the church at that time but the woods on the grounds were beautiful with wild flowers. There were many local preachers and exhorters, as they were called, but the first pastor we have on record was W. W. McIntosh in 1883, sometime after that came J. R. Smith and B. Sanders.

It was a common thing for members to be tried for misconduct and they were often dismissed from the church. Many

of them were afterward re-instated. About 1890 Innman was taken off the Fayetteville charge and the Innman Circuit was formed. This circuit consisted of Innman, Brooks, New Hope and County Pine for some time. The pastor preached at each church on one Saturday and Sunday each month. At our church there was preaching every Sunday, the local elders filling the pulpit except on the pastor's Sunday. Uncle Daniel McLucas, Uncle Bogan Mask, and J.W. Elder and Uncle Thomas Lunsford were some of these.

The Sunday School at this time was well attended. There was a large Bible Class and many of the older people were regular attendants.

Other ministers who served this church were: C.M. Verdell, C.S. Wright, S.M. Thomas, W.C. Davis, N.E. McBryer, B.E.L. Timmons, J.W. Bailey, J.S. Ashby, A.E. Scott, R.P. Tatum, J.S. Hill, C.D. Read and J.R. Jones.

By 1920 our church was badly in need of repairs. In winter the roads would sometimes get almost impassible and Sunday School would be suspended so it was decided to build a new church.

at Inman. This was done in 1920 under the leadership of Rev. A.W. Conway who felt that he was sent to build our Church. Some of the members gave timber others cut, hauled + sawed it into lumber; many gave of their time + worked faithfully. The last of the money was raised and the Church was cleared of debt at a homecoming in 1924. It was then called the "Inman Methodist Church". The women raised the money to paint the building, buy a piano + bell, by working a cotton patch.

During the over one hundred years since it was founded, our church has had members in three wars. During World War II our flag had 23 stars, one of them a gold star - Emerson Callaway. Our pastors since Rev. Conway have been: W.E. Brown, Z. Speer, J.R. Terrell, J.S. Askew again, W.R. Williams, J.C. Callaway, D.O. Sentry, L.P. Huckaby, S.H. Stone, Z.V. Hawk, T.W. Halbrook, H.G. Garrett, Lamar Cherry, N.B. Dickens, W.J. Graham, Jacob Lackey, R.E. Whitley, Fred Stinson, J.B. Thompson, C.E. Spier, Roy Fiske, Gerald McCray, Estell Casebeer, Harold Storm, Robert Partridge, Paul Bone, Terry Markins, Ed Cook, Harry Jindell + Jno. M. (Dusty) Rhodes.

For a long time there had been much talk of building Sunday School rooms, but nothing had been done about it. After the organization of the Methodist Youth Fellowship by Rev. J. R. Thompson a recreation room for these young people was badly needed as well as the Sunday School rooms.

Next came our new pastor Rev. C. E. Spier who became very much interested in the building program. He invited Dr. Dorman Clarke, director of religious department Farmers Federation, Askeville, N.C. to come and explain "The Lord's Acre" plan. His enthusiasm and his inspiring talk led to the plan's adoption by the Church.

In 1951 twenty-one "Lord's Acre" ~~plates~~ listed twenty projects - cotton, calves, pigs, etc. when these projects were completed \$1,235.44 was realized for the first year. This same plan was followed the next year. By this means and many contributions enough money was raised to build our Educational building in 1953. Rev. C. E. Spier, our pastor, helped so much but was moved at the June Conference before the building was finished. The building consists of three Sunday School rooms, a kitchen, an assembly or recreation room and two rest rooms.

It was dedicated by Dr. J. C. Callaway, a former pastor in 1953. It has since been named the Elden Griffith Fellowship Hall. When the old Church began to leak and the wind came in to make it very cold in winter something had to be done. The question was whether to re-model or try to build a new church.

A good friend of our church, Roy Harps in Ada, Okla. offered to give \$1,000 to begin a fund for a new church if the members would raise a like amount. This offer was accepted and a "Building Fund" was put into our church program. A "Building Committee" was elected, Pledge Cards were sent to all church members. Two barbecues helped the fund to grow and so did Cake Sales. Friends & former members sent contributions. Years passed before there was enough to begin building. A new location not far from the old was selected. The members voted to borrow \$10,000 from the bank and build Sunday School rooms too.

Now there was no money for pews and furniture for Sunday School rooms, the nursery, pastors study etc. so it was decided to have these things given in memory of loved ones. These were gladly given.

The Church was finished, furnished and ready a "Home Coming" on October 30, 1968. A bulletin board was placed in front of the Church as a memorial to Edgar Moss in 1968. Also an organ was given to the Church the same year 1968.

by The Wesleyan Service Guild who raised the money by many projects and some gifts. New Collection plates were given in memory of W. L. Burch.

Chimes sponsored by The Woman's Service Guild were installed just before Christmas in honor of Mrs. Blanche B. Harp. (See insert)

In 4 acres of land was purchased from Mr. + Mrs. Berner Tarpley adjoining the Church. The land to be used for building a parsonage on and as needed for other purposes.

In 1973 the new parsonage was built + The Dusty Rhodes moved into it in September.

The Choir directed by Mrs. Virginia Adams is doing excellent work and adds so much to our church service.

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8.
We love our church our church and
we pray that its influence may spread
and that it will be a blessing to many
people.

Oh, God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Be thou our guide while life shall last
And our eternal home."

Our debt was paid in full and
our present Church had Hopelcoming
and dedication ~~and~~ on May 23, 1901.
Dr. J. C. Callaway preached the dedication
sermon.