

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Canaan United Methodist Church.....A Rich and Continuing History

The history of Canaan United Methodist Church was first recorded by Bro. Francis Hopkins. Sister Oletha Jenkins continued recording this history after Bro. Hopkins' death.

History indicates that Negroes on the Waring Plantation had no place to worship. Bro. Abram Glenn, an old religious man began using his home for prayer meetings.

The owner of the Perry Plantation later donated a piece of property called Rosin Hill to be used to build a church. Some of the founding brothers who laid the foundation were: Abram Glenn, Peter Ancrum, Billy Flood, Cain Pinckney, Timothy Smalls and others who lived on the plantation at that time. This church was called Pine Hill.

Years later, Sand Hill was built and the two churches were connected to form a charge. They were both served by Missionary ministers until 1893 when the South Carolina Conference began sending out minister to the rural districts. Enoch Chapel and New Hope were added to the charge. The four churches made up the Ridgeville Charge.

In 1913, under the leadership of Brothers L. D. Felder, Oliver Perry, Solomon Cordes, K. D. Osborne, Thomas Williams, and Francis Hopkins, land was purchased and a bush tent was built for worship. Bro Francis Hopkins named the church Canaan. In 1914, ground breaking ceremony was held under the leadership of Rev. L. Bonaparte. The first church was erected in 1915.

In 1939, a more modern structure was built under the pastorate of Rev. E. S. Charley.

In 1967, another ground breaking ceremony was held. This time Rev. A. P. Sumter and Rev. M. D. McCollum, District Superintendent, and church leaders worked diligently to expand the growing needs of the church. On May 17, 1970, we worshiped in this building. We have been blessed by the leadership of the following ministers: Rev. J. W. Devore, Rev. J. C. McTeer, Rev. W. C. Kearns, Rev. Eugene S. McCants, Rev. T. J. Bowman, and Rev. J. C. Lane.

Today we give thanks for the leadership of our current pastor, Reverend Mack C. McClam and First Lady Gwendolyn T. McClam. May God continue to order our steps as we journey together along a path that nurtures, gives hope, lends kindness, fosters peace, and is forever blessed by God.

