

Palmetto Methodist Church

History Capsule for Charge Conference

October 24, 1999

As recorded by Church Historian and lifetime member, Alice Myers

In the beginning, Palmetto Methodists worshipped in private homes or sailed across the river to worship in the Manatee Methodist Church. (150 Sunday)

The Palmetto Methodist Episcopal Church was born in 1882 when the Florida Conference appointed the Rev. T. A. Branch to serve this congregation – the first formal church in Palmetto. Ten years later, we built our first church sanctuary. By 1924, we needed a larger sanctuary and more Sunday school rooms. Our present church was built and has been expanded twice. Most recent was the building in our Centennial year, 1982, of our new Fellowship Hall and additional Sunday school classrooms.

We have some wonderful records of the years and life of this church: some pastor's reports of the quarterly conferences and annual conferences, and records of the various strong and active Women's societies. Yes, the women only paid \$250 for the Rose window of our church.

There were decades of evangelism and spiritual renewal, of growth and rebirth. There were times when the pastors were concerned about the poor spiritual quality of some of the townspeople and sometimes members of his congregation. There were the budget woes when farmers failed to realize a profit from their crops because of freezes, hurricanes and excessive rains. There was the devastation of the depression when some members had to move away to find employment.

But, there was always the faith and dedication of clergy and the laity, the adults and youth of this church, to face challenges head on.

Our church, with the inspiration and help of the Roy Jones family and our men, opened and operated the Palmetto Drive-in Church, now the independent Dome Methodist Church. The ladies organized a massive ministry to alleviate the needs of migrant laborers and others, caused by a disastrous crop-killing freeze. The youth raised all the funds to buy the property on which the educational building was built.

Through ice cream socials, spaghetti suppers, bazaars, pancake breakfasts, bake sales and car washes, our active Methodist women, men and youth organizations continue to fulfill their many mission and service-oriented goals.

In this decade, the congregation joined hands in the effective Thrift Shop ministry of the church. Because of the many hours of dedicated volunteer service our members have given, the Thrift Shop ministry has successfully retired the debt of our church and provided for many other special needs within our church and in the community.

Palmetto Methodists and friends always respond to the needs of the church as we did in the church restoration, repairing and restoring the exterior walls and stained glass windows of the church.

Our history is a testament to what our forbearers and ourselves have achieved because of our love for Our Lord and His Son, and Their Blessing upon us.

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