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Clover First Methodist built in 1928 after fire

in first church

-Evening Herald, Rock Hill Saturday, Nov. 6, 1965

CLOVER — First Methodist Church got its start in 1900 when Rev. S. H. Booth, pastor of the Methodist Church in York, came to Clover on several occasions and preached to the little handful of Methodists in the Clover Presbyterian Church. The presiding elder, Rev. H. W. Bays, and Rev. Booth were thinking of establishing a Methodist Church in Clover.

On Nov. 22, 1901, nineteen Methodists living in the town of Clover, under the leadership of Rev. J. M. Shell, met and organized the Methodist Church of Clover. A building was erected on North Main Street on land donated by H. B. Maxwell. This was a small wooden structure following the line of the usual oblong church house.

Charter members were: Andy Kennedy, Maggie Christenberry, Nannie Christenberry, W. M. Brackett, C. A. Brackett, B. T. Dale, S. J. Dale, J. A. Long, Lizzie Long, Sallie Long, Janie Long, L. C. Wells, Mary Wells, J. G. Enloe, Mrs. Mary Lane, W. H. Hagans, Mrs. Vadie Hagans and Rosa Belle Cook.

In the fall of 1905 a new epoch began in the history of the church. Rev. E. K. Hardin became pastor and the congrega-

tion was growing so that the old building proved too small to accommodate the worshippers. In 1906 a cross section was built onto the rear of the church to meet the need. About the same time, James A. Barrett joined the church and at the age of 18 was elected steward and superintendent of the church school. The classes were separated by curtains and foot rests were provided for children and other improvements made. Under his leadership, the church school became well organized and better equipped for study of God's word.

The Epworth League was organized in 1917 under leadership of Rev. H. A. Whitten, and this very strong organization has been helpful in training the young people for adult church responsibilities and leadership.

When Rev. and Mrs. N. A. Page came to serve in the fall of 1925 the church and Sunday School went forward. In 1927, a fire in the old church burned the roof so badly that the congregation decided not to attempt repairs due to the need of more space. The congregation was offered the use of Hawthorn-Hampshire Community House on South Main Street. They moved

in immediately and services were held there from the time of the old church fire until the new one was near completion.

Rev. and Mrs. Page were good leaders and competent in making plans to build a new church. During 1927, the congregation used their money to purchase the present lot on Bethel Street.

The pastor made plans to hold revival services to encourage and strengthen the congregation. Rev. John R. Church of Western North Carolina Methodist Conference started a revival meeting at the Community House on Feb. 12, 1928. The attendance was so large that Rev. Page asked other Clover church pastors to help take care of the overflow.

Dr. William P. Grier of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church preached to a part of the crowd in the Community House basement. After this the meeting was moved to the Presbyterian Church which was filled to overflowing each night. These services so revived the congregation they decided to begin their new church building not later than June 1, 1928.

The present brick church building with auditorium for worship, social room for youth

meetings, ladies' parlor and church school rooms was completed at a cost of \$32,000. The depression struck and it was hard to keep up payments. The old church building and lot were sold and the money applied to the debt. The parsonage and lot were sold to help with finances. The church stewards took charge of the debt when reduced and finally the Board of Church Extension took it over at four per cent interest. The final payment was made in Feb. 1945.

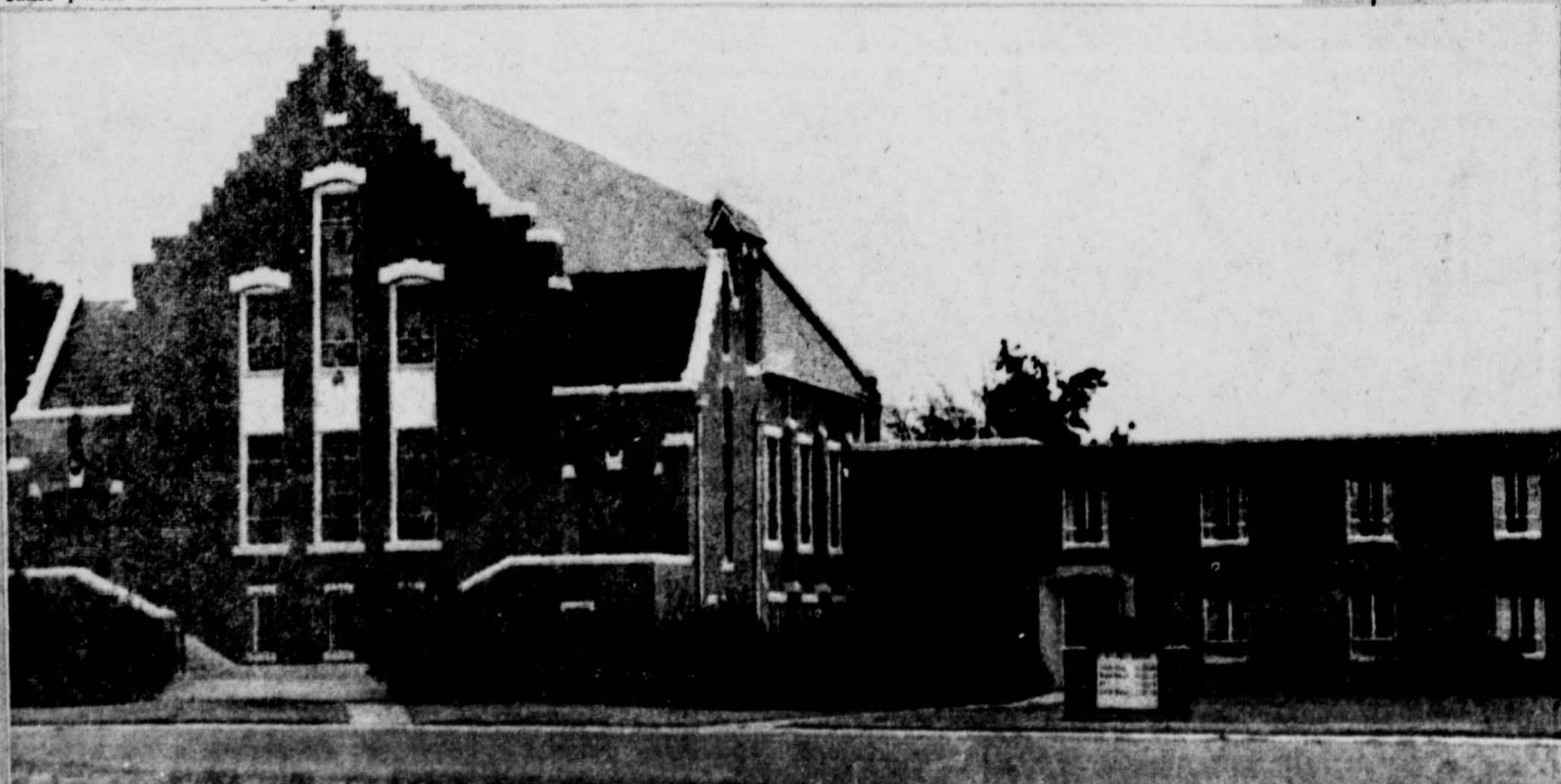
A new educational wing completed in 1961 provides more needed class rooms and facilities to keep pace with the modern day world methods of church training programs.

The women of this church have been organized since the summer of 1916. Later a baby division and junior division were formed.

Sons of the church who have become ministers have been: Rev. H. Grady Hardin, Rev. James A. Barrett, Rev. Fred Hedgepath and Rev. Wesley Pendleton.

There is much talent yet to be developed in this church.

Rev. Joseph H. Sowell is pastor of First Methodist Church of Clover and St. Paul Methodist Church near town.



CLOVER FIRST METHODIST BEGAN IN 1900 WITH HANDFUL OF MEMBERS
Church was actually organized and chartered in 1901 with 19 members.