

EVERYTHING HAS A BEGINNING!

So it was with Methodism in Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas. But who can determine exactly when it began? It seemed to grow simultaneously with the town. In 1963, the first few families moved here and worshipped with those in Franklin where established church services were being held. Revivals and union meetings drew crowds to the Community building, and potluck suppers became a regular happening in the church family. Interest soon indicated the need to locate a congregation in Horseshoe Bend, and the little band of approximately nine families from Franklin joined the idea of a building program.

Methodism set down its roots on Sunday, May 16, 1964, when a groundbreaking ceremony was held with sixty-five in attendance. There followed tent meetings, worship in the club house, sharing services with those in the Wiseman Methodist Church for about two months, and meeting in the hunting lodge on Strawberry River from June 1965 until December 1966.

On May 5, 1966, an "open church meeting" was conducted and permission was given to build a missional Methodist Church. Like most new churches in a new community, the fifteen or twenty families experienced times of struggle; but their laborious and concentrated efforts coupled with loyalty and devotion resulted in membership growth and service.

In May 1965, a group of about a dozen met to form the Women's Society of Christian Service. Today's United Methodist Women is involved in supporting Camp Aldersgate through its fundraising Quilt Show and Tea Room. Circles focus on a variety of projects and studies.

The United Methodist Men organized in January of 1973. At this time they are inactive as a unit.

Our choir began as a quartet in 1969. Today they provide music for worship, and the Christmas Cantata as well as the Community Easter Cantata provide spiritual enrichment for our community.

Other projects of this congregation which reach out to the community include the popular Hamburger Nights in May, June, July and August and the beautiful Seder Meal on Holy Thursday.

On June 24, 1972, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the fellowship hall unit. We received a certificate of recognition for the church's outstanding work and growth during 1972-1973. Also, our church was runner-up for "Small Town Church of the Year" that same year.

The first parsonage on Cameo Lane was purchased in 1975. This was replaced with a larger home on Tri-Lakes Drive in 2001. In 2009, the church received a generous gift from Richard Van Der Karr in the form of a Life Reserve gift of his home in the future.

1984, the year of "Building Tomorrow on Yesterday," was a triple anniversary. It was the twentieth anniversary of groundbreaking for this congregation, the centennial anniversary of UMW groups in the United States, and the bicentennial of American Methodism.

Another milestone in the history of this church occurred on November 14, 1989, when a Special Church Conference approved another expansion program to include a larger kitchen and fellowship hall and a parlor. Today we are enjoying the fruits of that labor as we gather for this 45th Anniversary Celebration.

We have walked in the light for 45 years, and we are looking to the future with faith ... the same faith that started this church 45 years ago.

Pastors Who Have Been Appointed to This Church

| | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 1964 | <i>Rev. James Brenzeale</i> |
| 1966 | <i>Rev. W. Harrell Ford</i> |
| 1972 | <i>Rev. Denzel Stokes</i> |
| 1975 | <i>Rev. Pharis Holifield</i> |
| 1981 | <i>Rev. John. E. Copher</i> |
| 1985 | <i>Rev. Nick Lascarro</i> |
| 1989 | <i>Rev. Allen B. Bonsall</i> |
| 1993 | <i>Rev. Danny Rogers</i> |
| 1996 | <i>Rev. Ron Clark</i> |
| 1998 | <i>Rev. Vaughn Marsden</i> |
| 2001 | <i>Rev. Everett Isom</i> |
| 2003 | <i>Rev. Beth Purdue</i> |
| 2003 | <i>Rev. Mark Ashcraft</i> |
| 2007 | <i>Rev. Gary Goldman</i> |
| 2008 | <i>Rev. Nancy Cameron</i> |

*For all the saints who built this congregation
That we might share this fellowship today.
We offer thanks and join in celebration
For their courage and their faith.*

*We look ahead with hope and expectation
As we go forth to share the love of Christ.
We pledge to serve with joy and dedication.
We are walking in the light.*

Celebrate!

Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Horseshoe Bend United Methodist Church

600 W. Church St., Horseshoe Bend, AR 72512

870.670.5392

www.horseshoebendumc.org

Rev. Nancy P. Cameron, Pastor

Dr. Charles Crutchfield, Bishop

Rev. Charles Settle, District Superintendent

Celebrate!

**45 Years
of**

Walking in the Light



"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

**Horseshoe Bend
United Methodist Church**