

"A New Church Serving A Growing Community"

St. Stephen United Methodist Church

in

Lansdowne

6330 Owenby Court
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211

James M. Armstrong, Jr., Minister
Telephone: 364-1791

Sunday Services in
Lansdowne Elementary School

THE HISTORY OF ST. STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On June 10, 1968, while pastor at Trinity Methodist Church in Charlotte, N. C., the Rev. James M. Armstrong, Jr. was appointed by Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr. to organize a new Methodist Church in the Lansdowne area in the southeast part of Charlotte, N. C.

The parsonage for the church was selected in Lansdowne at 6330 Owenby Court and Rev. Armstrong and his family moved in on June 19, 1968. Shortly thereafter, meetings were set up for planning the organization of the new Methodist Church.

The first meeting was held on June 25, 1968 at the home of Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Boyd, Jr.

Plans for the organization of the church were discussed at this meeting, and also the purchasing of land for the church site. A name for the church was discussed and names to be submitted were planned for the next meeting.

The following attended this meeting:

Rev. & Mrs. James M. Armstrong, Jr., Mrs & Mrs. W. R. Boyd, Jr., Mr. Curtis C. Walker, Mr. & Mrs. T. R. Lawing, Mrs. R. F. Bean, Mr. Bob Gosnell, Mr. & Mrs. John Williams, Mrs. Bob Brooks, Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Bean, Mrs L. A. Love, Mr W. L. Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Robt. B. Forward, Mrs Fred J. Penley, Jr. and Mr. & Mrs. Chas. L. Porter.

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The second meeting was held on July 9, 1968 at the parsonage, the home of Rev. & Mrs. James M. Armstrong, Jr.

After the devotion by Rev. Armstrong, Mr. Dwight L. Phillips gave a talk on new church development, particularly as related to his experience in the Sharon United Methodist Church. The information that he gave for the organization and planning of a new church was very helpful.

Following this talk, a number of names were presented for consideration for the new church and the vote was unanimous for the name to be St. Stephen United Methodist Church.

At this meeting Mr. W. R. Boyd, Jr. and Mr. T. R. Lawing were appointed to work with the pastor in locating potential property for the new church.

The following attended this meeting:

Rev. & Mrs. James Armstrong, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Curtis C. Walker, Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Boyd, Jr., Mr. Chas. L. Porter, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Short, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Ferebee, Mr. & Mrs. Gary McVey, Mrs. Bob Brooks, Mr. John Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Gray, Mr. Barney Haynes and Mr. Dwight L. Phillips.

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The third meeting was held at the parsonage on July 23, 1968. After a devotion by Rev. Armstrong, the date of August 18th was set for the church survey and the constituting church service date was set for September 8th.

Rev. Armstrong, Dr. W. C. Bean, Mr. Gary McVey and Mr. John Williams were appointed to select a financial secretary and treasurer. Their decision was that they would ask Mrs. Fred Penley, Jr. to serve both as financial secretary and treasurer of the church.

The following attended this meeting:

Rev. & Mrs. James M. Armstrong, Jr., Mr. & Mrs.
Gary McVey, Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Boyd, Jr., Mr. & Mrs.
Curtis C. Walker, Dr. W. C. Bean and Mr. John Williams.

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The fourth meeting was held on August 11, 1968 at the Scout Hut at Sardis Presbyterian Church with a covered dish supper.

After a devotion and scripture reading by Rev. Armstrong, work on the church survey was discussed and workers were lined up for the survey work which was set for Sunday, August 18, 1968.

The following attended this meeting:

Rev. James M. Armstrong, Jr., Dr. W. C. Bean, Mr. & Mrs. Curtis C. Walker, Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Boyd, Jr., Terri Boyd and two of her friends, Mr. & Mrs. Fred J. Penley and two daughters, Mr. & Mrs. John Williams and Mr. & Mrs. Russell Martin who were guests at the meeting.