

## NEW SHARON HISTORY

New Sharon Methodist Church was organized in **1768** as an Anglican congregation. It was originally located near the intersection of what is now New Sharon Church and Schley roads. In **1797** New Sharon became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Due to a tragic fire, all records of these early beginnings were destroyed.

The second building, some 250 yards south west of the present site, was erected in **1856** as the New Sharon Methodist Episcopal Church, South. After acquiring an additional plot of land, bringing the site to 12 acres, the third building was erected in **1908**. With the merger of the three Methodist church bodies (Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Methodist Protestant Church and the Free Methodist Church\*) in **1939**, the name changed to New Sharon Methodist Church.

Immediately behind the church, the construction of the present building was begun on May 28, **1948**. It was completed and paid for within one year of the groundbreaking, with the dedication service being held on Sunday, June 5, **1949**.

Rev. Lamar Schmitz was New Sharon's first pastor (1958-1962) when it was no longer a part of the Hillsborough Charge. He and his family moved into the newly built parsonage built in **1958**.

After the **1968** Church Union (Methodist, Evangelical and United Brethren) the name changed to New Sharon United Methodist church.

In **1988** a new wing of the church was built. This included a large fellowship hall with a spacious, modern kitchen and educational facilities.

In **1993** many improvements were made to New Sharon's sanctuary- new doors, copper awnings, paint, refurbishing of the woodwork, a remodeling of the choir and pulpit area and red carpet. The fellowship Hall that was built in 1988 was also paid off- after just 4 years and 10 months!

On October 18, **2009**, the parsonage was rededicated after an extensive remodel and upgrade and in **2020** its roof was replaced. The church had its roof replaced in **2022**.

In **2023**, New Sharon Church joined the Global Methodist Church. The three circles of the Global Methodist Church logo represent the Holy Trinity; the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, with the cross at the center as Jesus Christ needs to be at the center of our lives. As a Global Methodist Congregation, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

We strive to grow spiritually in Christian faith and to shine the light of Jesus Christ in our community for many years to come. Our caring and compassionate members offer love and support to others through prayers, gifts and service. We at New Sharon Church welcome all to join with us in worship, share in the love of an extended family, and witness to others as disciples of Jesus Christ.

\*Pauline O. Lloyd and Allen A. Lloyd, "History of the Churches of Hillsborough, N.C.: Ca. 1766-1962" (The University of Virginia: The Author, 1968; Digitized: November 18, 2010), pages 83-84.

*This history is a 'work in progress'. If you have corrections or additions please let us know ([contact@newsharonchurchnc.org](mailto:contact@newsharonchurchnc.org)). We will also be adding a page 'New Sharon History' to our website in the next few months with copies of bulletins, a list of pastors, etc.*