

Cumberland United Methodist Church Timeline

1865

15 persons meet for worship at the home of Joseph and Sara Kershaw. Services are moved under a bush arbor in the yard. January Felder is the first pastor.

1866

In May, land is bought at 163 S. Coit Street. In August, a board building is constructed.

1869

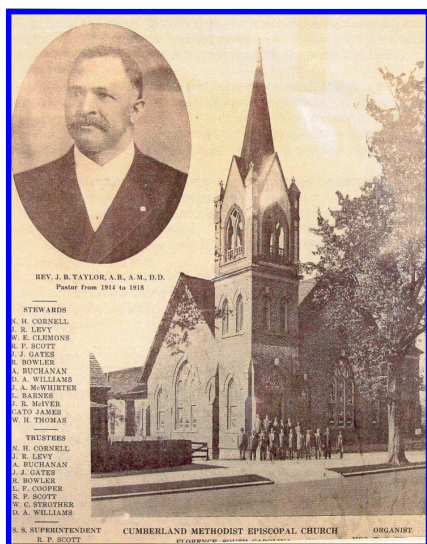
Membership grows to 429.

1870

Membership grows to 825.

1874

Record shows a parsonage.



A church program (date unknown) shows a former look of the church steeple. Rev. J.B. Taylor, who served from 1914-1918, is featured.

1886

Methodist Cemetery (on the corner of National Cemetery Road between Church and Barringer streets) is established on land deeded to the church by the City of Florence.

1911

A new brick church is built. The old building is moved to the back of the lot, where services are held until the new church is completed.

1921-1922

In August 1921, land is purchased in East Florence on Elizabeth Avenue (now Kemp Street). The old board church is dismantled, transported in parts and rebuilt on Kemp Street, with seats made by Mr. C. S. Sims. The building is renamed "The Gate City Mission." The cornerstone is laid by Hiram Masonic Lodge #13.

The Gate City Mission serves as a house of worship for many denominations for many years. Some of our best Revivals are held there. The building is eventually torn down due to deterioration.

1924

The current pipe organ is purchased at an estimated \$3,000 in 1920's money.

1933

The first robed choir is formed.

1951-1957

The communion rail is built and the church is redecorated.

1954

"The Hut," with a dining area, is constructed in the back of the property for small group meetings and other activities. It is built with donations and free labor.

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Cumberland United Methodist Church Timeline *(cont'd.)*



1957

A parsonage (shown at right) is purchased in East Florence on the corner of East Cheves and McFarland streets. The old parsonage next to the church becomes an Activities Building.

1967

The Activities Building is torn down and the current Educational Building is constructed.



1974

A parsonage in West Florence on the corner of North Coit and West Marion streets is purchased.

1985

Property at 137 S. Coit Street (next door, north of the church) is purchased.

1989

Hurricane Hugo strikes. Major repairs are made to the sanctuary.



1994

The current Cumberland Outreach Center (shown below) is built on the Kemp Street property.

1995-1997

A three-phase renovation plan is formed: Membership Nurture, Outreach Ministries, and Age-Level Family Ministries.

1997-2000

First renovation phase is completed: secretary's and pastor's offices, and restrooms in the Educational Building.



2002

First female minister, Rev. J. Jeannette' Cooper Dicks, is assigned to the church.

2003

Congregation worships in the Outreach Center during sanctuary renovations.



2006

Total rebuilding is required. Ground-breaking is held in July.

2007

"Laying of Bricks" ceremony is held to set the cornerstone. The church buys a parsonage.

2010

Church rebuild is completed. Congregation moves back into sanctuary on Palm Sunday, March 28, with a Consecration Service.

TODAY

Cumberland's congregation continues to forge its timeline, with God's guidance.