

The History of Oaklette United Methodist Church

Below are several dates of historical value in the life of Oaklette United Methodist Church.

1880 - Miss Fannie Whitehurst holds the first Sunday School Class in the Oaklette Community in the old kitchen of her parent's farmhouse.

1881 - Miss Fannie and ladies of the community meet and plan a strategy for raising money to build a church in the Oaklette Community.

11/1883 - Land is donated by the Hare and Tully families for the building of Oaklette Chapel.

11/1884 - Oaklette Chapel is completed and dedicated with 12 charter members present in the 100th year of Methodism. Miss Fannie's younger sister, Emeline Whitehurst, is the first member to be baptized at the first revival service.

1885 - A one room public school, known as Norfolk County School #8, Fifth District, is built on church property and is used for church and community gatherings as well.

12/1889 - Oaklette's first parsonage is completed on land given by the Hare family next the school house and church.

2/1901 - The Ladies Parsonage Aide Society is officially organized to see to the needs of the parsonage and the parsonage family.

1904 - Oaklette's first youth organization, the Epworth League, is formed.

1929/1930 - First Boy and Girl Scout troops are organized at Oaklette.

2/1931 - The parsonage and former school house are enlarged to facilitate a growing Sunday School membership. Both are destroyed by fire before ever being used.

12/1931 - New Sunday School and parsonage built.

1940 - The Women's Missionary Society, after merging with the Ladies Parsonage Aide Society in 1928, is officially organized with 23 members.

1943 - Oaklette's Young Adult Class promotes a fund raiser for the war effort, raising \$54,000 in War Bonds.

1951 - Land is donated by C. A. Roberts and family for a new sanctuary to be built directly across the street from the first Oaklette Chapel.

4/1953 - Ground is broken for the new sanctuary.

11/1954 - The first service is held in the new sanctuary. *

11/1958 - A new parsonage is completed on land adjacent to the new sanctuary.

4/1959 - Ground is broken for the new educational wing.

11/1960 - New educational wing is completed and consecrated.

11/1976 - Fannie Whitehurst Fellowship Hall is consecrated and an addition to the parsonage is completed. A chapel in the educational wing is completed.

9/1995 - The Committee on History placed a headstone on the unmarked grave of Miss Fannie Whitehurst in Norfolk's Elmwood Cemetary.

* There has been some disagreement in the past as to the date of the first worship service held in the current Oaklette Church, possibly because of the date, 1955, on the cornerstone. According to the Pastor's Report to the Quarterly Conference, dated May 12, 1955: "We consecrated our new church on November 21st, 1954 with a capacity crowd of 538 people present". . .June the 12th, 1955, has been officially designated by the official board as the day of dedication of the memorial windows and pews, which have been given.

Note: If there are other dates and events that you would like to see added to this list, please notify any member of the Committee on History and provide the date, event and reason that it should be added. Once this information has been reviewed and approved by the committee, it will be added to the list on the website.