

## MINISTERS AND TENURE OF SERVICE

1874 -2009

The Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in America in Baltimore, Maryland in 1784, only one year after America actually began enjoying independence. The Lovely Lane Methodist Church is considered the Mother Church of American Methodism. From its beginning in Baltimore the denomination has grown to be in 2009 the second largest denomination in our country. Mandarin Mission began just ninety years after the root beginning of Methodism in America.

Mandarin Mission was a circuit church in the Jacksonville District, one of the four districts in the Florida Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The other districts were Tallahassee, Tampa, and Ocala.

Circuit riders are part of the history of American Methodism. In 1784 there were only 43 Methodist circuits in the United States. Sixty years later there were almost 4000 circuit riders. As one can tell from the following list, circuit riders did not last long in an assignment. They had a difficult life. They were often called saddlebag preachers because they traveled from church to church sometimes through wildernesses with their few possessions in their saddlebag. These men were tough and called by the Lord to grow His work. There were few, if any, roads, and it was frequently difficult for travelers to cut through the deep tropical undergrowth. Their goal was to serve the churches on their circuit and to build new churches. What an adventure!

Mandarin Methodist Mission was served by a series of these circuit riders.

### Circuit Riders

Rev. T. W. Moore	1874– 1879
Rev. W. O. Butler	1879– 1885
Rev. T. W. Moore	1885– 1886
Rev. George J. Kennelly	1886– 1888
Rev. J. L. Rast	1889– 1890
Rev. F. N. C. Eads	1890– 1891
Rev. J. N. Jones	1892– 1893
Rev. M. F. Dukes	1894– 1895
Rev. T. M. White	1896– 1897
Rev. W. F. Alexander	1898– 1899
Rev. E. Wilson	1899– 1900

Rev. F. L. Church	1901-1903
Associate Pastor E. A. Harrison	1903
Rev. E. F. Ley	1904
No records	1904-1908

At this point the records of the Mandarin Methodist Church and the newly formed Bethel Methodist Church began to merge. During the next 10 – 15 years, both churches were served by the same pastors. In the early 1900's the two churches became one.

Rev. D. Ryder	1909-1912
Rev. Frank W. Cramer	1913-1914
Rev. Holmes Logan	1914-1915
Rev. S. I. Hendrix	1916-1917
Rev. B. A. Brandon	1918-1919
Rev. H. Bartlett	1920-1921
Rev. M. W. Smith	1921-1922
Rev. S. H. Barnes	finished Rev. Smith's term
Rev. R. L. Harris	1926-1928
Rev. Culpepper	1928
Rev. W. L. Elkins	1929
Rev. J. M. Bass	1930-1931
Rev. T. L. Roper	1931-1932
Rev. S. H. Barnes	1933-1937
Rev. J. P. McRae	1937-1938
Rev. S. H. Barnes	1938-1939

In 1939 three denominations (the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Methodist Episcopal Church, North and the Methodist Protestant Church) merged into the Methodist Church.

Rev. P. Y. Howard	1939-1944
Rev. E. L. Johnson	1945-1962

Reverend Jasper O. Witt was the first full-time pastor and the church became a single charge.

Rev. Jasper O. Witt	FULL-TIME PASTORS
Rev. A. Bruce Galloway	1962-1965
	1966-1971

In 1968 the United Methodist Church was created when the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church merged.

Rev. Richard J. Wills, Jr.	1971-1976
Rev. Harold Hendren	1976

Rev. Julius C. Byers	1977 – 1980
Rev. Larry E. Cook	1980 – 1989
Rev. John H. Green	1989 – 1994
Associate Rev. Dawn R. Lawton	1990 – 1993
Rev. John Harrington	1994 – 2001
Associate Rev. Patrice Spencer	1994 – 1999
Associate Rev. Jennifer Stiles Williams	2000 – 2003
Rev. Michael Oliver	2001 – 2003
Rev. Dr. David Brazelton	2003 – 2009
Associate Rev. Curran Spottswood	2003 – 2009
Associate Rev. Missy Hart	2007 – 2013
Rev. Debbie McLeod	2009 –
Associate Rev. C.J. Hill	2009 – 2013
Associate Rev. Jeff St. Clair	2013 –
Local Pastor Mike Groos	2014 –
Associate Rev. Will Wold	2015
Associate Rev. Anna Scharbo	2017