



HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GLADEWATER, TEXAS

The First United Methodist Church of Gladewater was organized October 1, 1922, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Godfrey. Twelve adults and two children were present. By 1923, the membership numbered forty-five.

The first church, a small one-room white frame building, was constructed in the fall of 1922 on land donated by the Godfrey family, near the present Broadway school.

Rev. J. L. Willis, a student preacher from Southern Methodist University, was the first pastor. For twenty-five years, the church was in the Tyler District but became part of the Longview District in 1947. For about ten years, it was on the Winona Circuit with two to five churches. Worship services were held once a month, but Sunday school met every Sunday.

In 1924, the sanctuary was dedicated, Dr. C. C. Seelman of Southern Methodist University delivering the dedicatory sermon.

The church became a full-time pastorate about 1932, when the discovery of oil in East Texas in 1931 brought sudden and extensive growth, but it had no parsonage and needed a larger church plant.

In 1933, the first parsonage was built on the new church site, corner of Quitman and Ferry streets, in the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Malone. Trustees L. L. Jeter, S. V. Perritte, Don Cameron, Mrs. Jeff Johnson, and Mrs. John Jeter supervised the construction. Membership was 142.

During the ministry of Rev. Erwin Jackson, the present red brick sanctuary was completed in 1935, A. L. Moore acting as chairman of the Building Committee. The church family moved from the Broadway site to its new location. Membership grew to 219 while Rev. Jackson was pastor.

The new church was dedicated September 19, 1937, in the ministry of Rev. J. C. Thomson. Under his leadership membership increased to 480.

The tremendous growth of the church in the pastorate of Rev. L. Eugene Harris (1947-1950) brought the addition of the Educational Building, now Jeter Hall, with J. H. Lewis chairman of the Building Committee. The church now had 937 members.

During the pastorate of Rev. Compton Riley, the entire church plan was air-conditioned by 1954. A dedication service that year marked the retiring of an original \$80,000 indebtedness. Dr. E. E. Peebles of Lon Morris College was guest speaker.

Under the chairmanship of Ovid Phillips the sanctuary was completely relighted, redecorated, carpeted, and enlarged by the addition of a narthex and a balcony during the pastorate of Rev. Clyde Thomas in 1957. The first service held in the newly remodeled and redecorated sanctuary was the First Annual Homecoming in 1958. Rev. Mouzo Bass, district superintendent of the Longview District, delivered the sermon.

In 1966 during the ministry of Rev. James A. Brannen, a dedication of all church facilities was held. Bishop Paul E. Martin was the honored speaker. Extensive remodeling, redecorating, and reorganization of the Children's Division, under the direction of Mrs. Jack Finley, was done in 1971 and 1972. In 1973, the refurbishing of the entire church plant was accomplished under the leadership of Rev. Conrad W. Winborn, Jr.

During James Brannen's ministry, the fellowship hall was named Jeter Hall in honor of Mrs. Lyle Jeter. Jeter Hall has been painted three times since 1979—once by contractors and twice by members. Five chair rails were purchased by Creative Christians, and new tables were purchased during Joe Fort's ministry.

Approximately 1980, during Frank Cady's ministry, the kitchen was remodeled and new equipment installed. Funds for this project were given by Mack Rankin in memory of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bean. Later, a small dishwasher was installed to be used at times when the larger dishwasher was not needed.

The sanctuary's outside brick was cleaned by A. V. Henderson. The sanctuary windows were covered with lex-ann for protection. The stairway from the lower floor up to the sanctuary was added. The sanctuary ceiling was installed, tiles were replaced, and new lights were installed. Creative Christians provided funds for this project. Hearing impaired equipment, along with a mobile microphone for the minister, was installed in 1992 during Guy Pry's ministry. Funds were provided by the Creative Christians.

In 1994, during Clayton Gilpin's ministry, the kneeling rail pad, curtain around the organ, new

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF GREGG.

Know All Men By These Presents:

Office Copy

That We, T.L. Bray and wife, Bertha Olive Bray,

of the County of Gregg, State of Texas, for and in consideration of
the sum of TWENTY ONE HUNDRED & NO/100 (\$2100.00) - - - - - DOLLARS,

to us paid, and secured to be paid, by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Gladewater, Texas, by and through its Board of Trustees, L.B. Jeter, S.V. Perritte, ~~Don Cameron~~, J.A. Godfrey, Mrs. ~~John T. Jeter~~ and Mrs. Jeff Johnson, as follows:

Six Hundred (\$600.00) Dollars to us cash in hand paid by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Gladewater, Texas, by and through its said Trustees, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged and confessed, and Fifteen Hundred (\$1500.00) Dollars evidenced by three certain promissory notes bearing even date herewith, each in the sum of Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars, due and payable as follows, to-wit: Note No.1 due on or before one year from date; note No.2 due on or before two years from date and note No. 3 due on or before three years from date; said notes to bear interest from date until paid at the rate of 8% per annum; the interest payable annually as it accrues; said notes being payable to T.L. Bray or order at Gladewater, Texas, have granted, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Gladewater, Texas, and to their successors in office; "IN TRUST, that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of, as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Gladewater, Texas; subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises and situated,"

"NOTES ARE MADE PAYABLE TO T.L. BRAY AND WIFE, BERTHA OLIVE BRAY."

~~That the above described property is hereby conveyed to the said Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Gladewater, Texas, and to their successors in office, for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Gladewater, Texas; subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises and situated,"~~

have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Gladewater, Texas, and to their successors in office;

~~have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said~~

of the County of Gregg, State of Texas, all that certain
lots, tracts or parcels of land situated in Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas, and being all of lots No's. Seventeen, (17), Eighteen (18), Nineteen (19), Twenty (20), Twenty-One (21) and Twenty-Two (22) in Block Eight (8), of the town of Gladewater, as shown by the official map of said town, which is recorded in Vol. "A", page "3", Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas. Said property being subject to an Oil and Gas Lease now of record, Gregg County, Texas, AND it is AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD by Grantor and Grantee herein that all Oil, Gas or Mineral interest are reserved by Grantor, his heirs or assigns, it being the intent and purpose of this instrument to convey the surface rights in and to the property conveyed hereby, and no greater interest.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular, the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said Board of Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church South, Gladewater, Texas, and to their successors in office forever,

~~heirs and assigns forever~~; and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, to Warrant and Forever Defend all and singular the said premises unto the said Board of Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church South, Gladewater, Texas, and to their successors in office forever;

~~heirs and assigns~~, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same or any part thereof.

But it is expressly agreed and stipulated that the Vendor's Lien is retained against the above described property, premises and improvements, until the above described note \$ and all interest thereon are fully paid according to their face and tenor, effect and reading, when this deed shall become absolute.

Witness our hands at Gladewater, Texas, this 25th day of February A. D. 1933.

Witnesses at Request of Grantor:



J L Bray
Bertha Elise Bray

The State of Texas,

COUNTY OF Gregg.

authority

BEFORE ME, the undersigned

in and for

Gregg

County, Texas, on this day personally appeared

T.L. Bray

known to me to be the person.....whose name is.....subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that.....he.....executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this 27th day of February, A. D. 1933.

(L.S.)

Nicholas Barker
Notary Public, Gregg County, Texas.

The State of Texas,

COUNTY OF GREGG.

authority

BEFORE ME, the undersigned

in and for

Gregg

County, Texas, on this day personally appeared

Bertha Olive Bray

wife of

T.L. Bray

known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said Bertha Olive Bray.....acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and

she declared that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this 27th day of February, A. D. 19 33.

(L.S.)

Nicholas Barker
Notary Public, Gregg County, Texas.

The State of Texas,

COUNTY OF

BEFORE ME,

in and for

County, Texas, on this day personally appeared

and

....., his wife, both known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they each executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and the said.....

....., wife of the said.....

....., having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said.....

acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and she declared that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this.....day of.....A. D. 19.....

(L.S.)

The State of Texas,

COUNTY OF Gregg

I, Dustin Shan, County

Clerk of the County Court of said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing instrument of writing dated on the 28th day of February, A. D. 1933, with its Certificate of Authentication, was filed for record in my office on the 12 day of June, A. D. 33, at 9:10 o'clock a M., and duly recorded this 19 day of June, A. D. 33, at 11 o'clock a M., in the deed Records of said County, in Volume 147, on pages 212-213.

Witness my hand and seal of the County Court of said County, at office in Lawrence Texas

the day and year last above written.

County Clerk.....

By Dustin Shan

County, Texas

Lawrence Texas
Deputy.

(L.S.)

No. _____

WARRANTY DEEDWith Vendor's Lien, Single, Joint and Wife's
Separate Acknowledgments

FROM

T.L. Bray et -ux

Bertha Olive Bray

TO

Board of Trustees of
~~Methodist Episcopal Church~~
South,
Gladewater, Texas.

FILED FOR RECORD

This 17 day of June, A. D. 1933at 9:10 o'clock AMDush Shaw

County Clerk.

By _____, Deputy.

RECORDED

June 19, A. D. 1933In Gresham County Recordsof Deeds Book 147Page 212-213Dush Shaw

County Clerk.

By Sammie Mott, Deputy.Recording Fee \$ 1.00J. A. Badger
Gladewater, TxThis instrument should be filed immediately with the
County Clerk for Record.

Martin Stationery Co., Dallas, Texas

Vol. 45 - P. 52-53

Know all men by these Presents:

That we, J. A. Godfrey and wife Marie Godfrey of the County of

Gregg

State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred (\$500.00) and no Dollars to us in hand paid by Methodist Episcopal Church, South; the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged and confessed; do hereby certify that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; subject to the discipline, usage and material appointment of said Church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated.

Have granted, sold and conveyed and by these presents do grant, sell and convey unto the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South; in trust as hereinbefore stated of the County of Gregg, State of Texas, all that certain tract or parcel of lands situated in the County of Gregg, State of Texas, and

apart of the Martha Dillard Leabright survey, and being a part of Block No. four (4) as laid down and described on the official map of the town of Gladewater, Texas, which said map is of record in Vol. 21 on page 5. And Records of Gregg County, Texas, said tract of land being described by notes and bounds as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the N.E. corner of Block number four (4) thence south with E. & line of block No. 4, 100 feet to S.E. corner of lot No. seven (7); Thence west with S. & line of lot No. 7, 194 feet and 2 inches to the E. & line of Languey public road; Thence north $48 \frac{5}{16}$ E. with meanderings of said road, 110 feet and 8 inches to N. & line of block four (4); Thence east with N. & line of block 169 feet and 8 inches to the place of beginning.

Second Tract: Being all of lots No. 9 and 10 in Block No. 4, that lie west of the Languey public road. The intention of this conveyance is to convey all of lots No. 7, 9 and 10 in Block No. Four (4) in the town of Gladewater, Except parts of said lots that are now used as public road.

Said two tracts of land being the same land conveyed to the undersigned by R. M. Ward and wife by deed dated Sept. 15th, 1919, and recorded in Vol. 33, on pages 319 and 320, deed records of Gregg Co., Texas.

To have and to hold the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging, unto the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South; its assigns forever; and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators to warrant and forever defend, all and singular, the said premises unto the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South; in trust as above stated, its assigns against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof.

Witness our hand at Gladewater, this 22 day of August, A.D. 1922

J. A. Goffrey
Revie Goffrey

Seems
offish

The State of Texas }
County of Gregg }

Before me, The undersigned authority in and for
Gregg County, Texas, on this day personally appeared J. A.
Bedfrey known to me to be the person whose name is
subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged
to me that he executed the same for the purposes and
considerations therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this 22 day of August 1922

{L.H.}

R.M. Wash

Notary Public in and for Gregg County, Texas.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

This is to Certify that
MR. A. L. O'Brien
 HAS QUALIFIED AND IS RELIABLE WITH THE
 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
 FOR THE YEAR AS

Den Mother
Pack 196
Gladeswater, Texas

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
 IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATED **January 31, 1945**
 SIGNED *John E. O'Brien*
 Scoutmaster

585

CHARACTER - CITIZENSHIP



The History of First United Methodist Church Gladewater, Texas

The First United Methodist Church of Gladewater was organized October 1, 1922 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Godfrey. Twelve adults and two children were present. By 1923, the membership numbered forty-five. This first church was known as the Methodist Episcopal Church.

From this modest beginning, a one-room sanctuary was built and known as "the little white church." The site was built on land purchased from J.A. Godfrey located in Block 4 of the Martha Dillard headright survey. This is near the Broadway School. In 1924, the sanctuary was dedicated and Dr. C. C. Selecman of Southern Methodist University delivered the dedicatory sermon.

Rev. J. L. Willis, a student preacher from Southern Methodist University, was the first pastor. For twenty-five years, the church was in the Tyler District but became part of the Longview District in 1947. For about ten years, it was in the Winona Circuit with two to five other churches. Worship services were held once a month, but Sunday School met every Sunday.

Shortly, after the founding of the church, the Woman's Missionary Society was organized. Since that time, the missionary society has supported the local church, community and worldwide projects with gifts and prayers.

With the discovery of oil in East Texas in 1931, the church had a sudden and extensive growth. The church became a full time pastorate in 1932. This brought the need for a parsonage and a larger church. Under the leadership of Reverend J.H. Malone (1932-1933,) a new church site was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Thornton Bray for \$2100. There was a cash payment of \$600 and three yearly installments of \$500. This is the site of the current church at the corner of Ferry and Quitman.

In 1933, construction of a "beautiful, modern seven room cream colored brick residence" was completed. The Reverend J. H. Malone and family were the first to occupy the parsonage.

Under the pastorate of Reverend Erwin Jackson, the cornerstone for the present building was laid on December 19, 1935. The church was "red brick, split level building of traditional design with eight cathedral stained glass windows." Immediately behind the sanctuary, the two stories held classrooms and office space. The third story held classrooms and a prayer room. The church was dedicated on September 19, 1937 in the ministry of Reverend J. C. Thomson.

When Reverend L. Eugene Harris (1947-1951) became pastor membership jumped from 864 to 937. Such tremendous growth made necessary the erection of the Education/Fellowship Hall. This was added to the south side of the original building and completed in 1951. This addition provided a fellowship area (later named Jeter Hall,) a well-equipped kitchen and more classrooms. On the back lot next to the Fellowship Hall a home was built for the new Minister of Music, Robert Godwin. This apartment later became the church's Youth Director residence. On January 31, 1945, the church began sponsoring Cub Scout Pack 196 with Mrs. A.L. O'Brien serving as Den Mother.

Air-conditioning was added to the entire church plant in 1954. This was during the ministry of Reverend Compton Riley. At the same time the parsonage was redecorated and a

Landscaping Fund was established. A dedication service that year marked the retiring of the original \$80,000 indebtedness. Dr. E. E. Peeples was guest speaker.

The Methodist Men's group was organized during the early pastorate of the Reverend Clyde Thomas (1955-1958). The men served many community banquets raising money for various church projects. Raymond Scurlock was the first president. This group funded and laid the tile throughout the Education Building. A Vacation Bible School was started at this time. Also, under Reverend Thomas' pastorate the sanctuary was completely re-lighted, redecorated and carpeted. The narthex and the balcony were enlargements to the sanctuary in 1957. The First Annual Homecoming was held in the newly re-modeled and redecorated sanctuary in 1958. Reverend Mouzo Bass, district superintendent of the Longview District, delivered the sermon.

Under the guidance of Reverend Joe Strother (1958-1960,) the parsonage was insulated and another bath was added. The Education Wing/ Fellowship Hall was repaired, re-roofed, extensively weatherproofed, and painted. The church and steeple were re-roofed and painted.

The Reverend Donald R. Box (1961-1964) was the next pastor. The church resumed sponsorship of Cub Scout Pack 196 in 1963.

Reverend Bryant Young (1964-1966) guided the church through the air-conditioning of the parsonage. The outside of the church was painted and the stained glass windows were cleaned and repaired at this time.

From 1966 to 1971, Reverend James Brannen served the church. During his tenure, the last payment on the building note was made and the church was dedicated on October 22, 1966 as "The Methodist Church." Mr. and Mrs. C. Quentin Abernathy donated the lot north across from the sanctuary for parking and recreation, in 1967. In 1968, the church became known as "The First United Methodist Church" when it joined the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Also, during this time frame the Fellowship Hall was renamed Jeter Hall in honor of Mrs. Lyle Jeter.

Extensive remodeling, redecorating, and reorganization of the Children's Division were accomplished in 1971-1972 under the guidance of Mrs. Jack Finley. In 1973, the entire church was refurbished while Reverend Conrad Winborn, Jr. (1971-1975) was pastor. In the summer of 1973, Mrs. John Marshall directed an outreach training project entitled Motor Development Training Program. It was offered to all pre-school children of the community who wished to participate. About 100 children and 20 adults participated. The first Youth Director, Rick Sadler came in 1973 and continued with Reverend Carlos Davis (1975) and Reverend Leon Grissam (1976.) The Seekers Sunday School class was organized in 1976 with Ann Bost serving as their first teacher.

During the pastorate of Reverend Frank Cady (1976-1983), a new parsonage was acquired. The old parsonage was renamed the Annex. Sometime during this pastorate, the Ladies Friendship class disbanded due to loss of members to death. Mrs. J.B. Poston was their last teacher. She joined the Twentieth Century class. Around 1980, money was donated by Mack Rankin to remodel the kitchen and install new equipment, in memory of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bean. Susan Poole was Youth Director from 1976 to 1980. Patricia Parish served under both Reverend Cady and Reverend Joe Fort (1983-1986.)

Laura Buckner replaced Patricia Parrish in 1984 and continued through Reverend D. Nick Scholars (1986-1988.) An Acolyte program was started under the guidance of Alice Tucker. Lucille Daniel purchased new choir robes in 1987. The Friendship Class was organized in 1988 with Bill Corbin serving as their first teacher, followed by Brian Kirbo.

Reverend Guy Pry served First United Methodist from 1988-1992. Terry Fleming served as Youth Director under Reverend Pry. A group was formed on January 10, 1989 called the Creative Christians. This is a group of quilters, painters and other artistic crafters. They sell their creative objects and this money was used for various church remodeling projects. One of their first big projects was to cover the sanctuary windows with lex-ann for protection, added a stairway from the lower floor up to the sanctuary, replaced sanctuary ceiling tiles and new lighting installed. Other funding by the Creative Christians at this time was for hearing impaired equipment and mobile microphone for the minister. The Ages and Stages class was formed in 1990. Beginning early in 1991, an additional service was added before Sunday school to Sunday morning worship. Initially the Youth Director, Terry Fleming, directed the music during this service. In 1992, a lot across from the sanctuary was purchased from Lucille Daniel. With this purchase, plans for a Christian Life Center were formulated. Funding for the C.L.C. came from annual pledges of church members and Sunday school classes, plus donations from Creative Christians. Mother's Day out was organized this same year for a one day a week program, but quickly needed to add a second day. A major improvement for the handicap was made with the addition of a chair lift to the east side of the Narthex during 1992.

Creative Christians were responsible for purchasing additional cribs for the nursery and an intercom from the nursery to the ushers in 1993. Jay Edwards, Jimmy White, Tony Sasser and several other men were responsible for starting the Gladewater Youth Basketball League in 1993, providing an opportunity for Children 6-12 to participate on an organized team and compete against other teams. In 1994 the Discipleship Class was organized and Mattie Finley was its first teacher. The Friendship class changed its name to the Caffey Friendship class in 1995. Dot and Ballard Caffey were named "Teachers of the Year" at Annual Conference. Reverend Clayton Gilpin (1992-1996) restored the Children's Choirs in 1994 and added a Praise Team, in lieu of a music director, to lead the music in the Early Service (8:30.) Gordon Dilahunty was the Youth Director under Reverend Gilpin (1992-1996.) A dedication of the Christian Life Center was held on February 27, 1994 with District Superintendent, Don Meador present. Projects funded by the Creative Christians this year included indoor/outdoor carpet at the three outdoor entryways, weatherproof upholstery for the chairlift, a cover for the chairlift, stalls for the girls restroom in the upstairs Education Wing, and restoration of two the downstairs restrooms, replacement of the Prayer rail kneeling pad, curtain around the organ, new ropes at balcony entries and pew cushions repaired. An anonymous donor replaced the curtain behind the cross.

In 1996, Reverend Wayne Flowers (1996-2002) became pastor. The Crouch Class (named in memory of beloved teacher, Marybeth Crouch) disbanded in 1998. Reverend Flowers was the first teacher of the New Generations class organized in March 1998. Ryan Batley, Nancy Flowers, Mark Meador, Donivan Flowers and Doug Roberts all served as Youth Directors during Reverend Flowers ministry. The Children's Choirs were continued under the direction of Rome Smith (1996-1998) and Nancy Flowers in 1999. A group of young, adult men organized First Men, who meet on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 7:30 A.M. for Bible study and fellowship. Changes were made to the front of the sanctuary to provide an opening in the Prayer rail, along with repainting the sanctuary, refinishing the pews and painting the church steeple. In addition to these changes, two air-conditioners were installed in the kitchen. A Grand piano was given in memory of Wayne Thompson and dedicated on November 11, 1998. The **Worship On Wednesday (W.O.W.)** service began in 2000 with a fellowship dinner,

followed by worship and various church related activities, such as choir practice and Bible Buddies for the children. The church began its sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 198 in 2000.

Doug Roberts has continued as Youth Director into the pastorate of Reverend John Newsome (2002-2004.) The first service on Sunday morning was renamed the Praise Service in 2002.

In 2004, the Education Wing and Jeter Hall were renovated. Jeter Hall got a new ceiling/roof and new window treatments. The renovations to the Education Wing were new carpet, new ceiling/ roof, modernization of both boys and girls bathrooms, and moving the Secretary's office to the room at the entrance of Jeter Hall. Mother's Day Out and the Director of Youth Ministry were moved into the old office. As of February 17, 2004, the Creative Christians have contributed \$82,732.86 to the church. Of that amount, \$11,490.00 was given to the Christian Life Center's building fund.

Our current Music Director is Mike Morrison, the Assistant Superintendent of Gladewater Schools. Some of the other Music Directors were: Wilson Godfrey, Richard Herbsi, Dr. David Morrison, Ken Bennet, Dale Miller, Eileen Davis, Jerry Kates, Fran Magown and Michael Williams. Our current organist is Jan Corbin and pianist is Tammy Stafford. Some others that have served us in the past are: Mrs. Virgil Tims, Eddie Mae Dawson, Gloria Hale, Carla Fleming, Anna Doris Pirtle, Nancy Flowers, Wanda Marlowe, Marilyn Godfrey, and Kathy McGriffin.

Summer of 2004 brought a first for a current member of our church to be hired as a Youth Director. The Henderson, Texas Methodist church, hired Sean Flowers, son of former Pastor Wayne Flowers. Also that summer, the original parsonage, known as the Annex was renamed The Godfrey House to honor the original founders of the church.

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER APPLICATION FORM

THC use only

Please complete both sides of form.

Proposed marker title: First United Methodist Church of Gladewater

(Title subject to change by Texas Historical Commission staff and/or State Marker Review Board.)

County: GREGGNearest town (on state highway map): Gladewater

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):

208 W. Quitman Street, Gladewater 75647

Will the marker go at the actual site of the topic being marked? ☒ Yes ☐ No If the answer is no, provide the distance and directions to the actual location from the marker (i.e. 100 yards east). Note that grave markers, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and Historic Texas Cemetery markers must be placed at the actual sites.

APPROVAL OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The county historical commission (CHC) must approve the marker application, narrative history and documentation before they are forwarded to the THC. The signature of the representative below signifies the CHC has reviewed and approved the application in full.

Printed name of CHC chair or marker committee chair*: Norman Black, D.D.S.Signature: Norman N. Black, D.D.S.

Date:

Mailing address: 417 Mobberly Ave.City, zip: Longview, TX 75602Daytime phone: 903/757-2261Fax: 903/753-5337Email: norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us

*The CHC or marker committee chair will be the primary contact regarding the application. The marker committee chair's signature is valid only if notification is properly filed with the THC (call 512/463-5853 to request a form).

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Permission from the property owner for placement of a marker is required. Provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization or public entity. Do not complete this section if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: First United Methodist

Contact person (if applicable):

City, zip: Gladewater, TX 75647Mailing address: P.O. Box 1167Phone: 903 845 2565

Fax:

Email:

Owner's signature: J. Newsum

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application?

☒ Yes☒ No

← Mrs. Loris B. Williams

PAYMENT INFORMATION (payment form will be sent to the following):

Name: Loris B. WilliamsContact person (if applicable): sameMailing address: P. O. Box 321City, zip: Gladewater, TX 75647Daytime phone: 903/845-4811

Fax:

Email:

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges and time delays, use a business street address (Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday). If the marker is to be placed on state highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: Dr. Norman BlackStreet address: 417 Mobberly Ave.City, zip: Longview, Texas 75602Daytime phone: 903/757-2261

(OVER)

TYPE AND SIZE OF MARKER DESIRED

■ SUBJECT MARKERS

Subject markers are educational in nature and convey no legal restrictions to the property. They are appropriate for topics such as church congregations, schools, towns, businesses, persons, events and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings; if the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- ☐ 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar)\$ 425
- ☐ 27" x 42" marker with post\$1,250
- ☐ 27" x 42" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$1,150
- ☒ 18" x 28" marker with post\$ 850
- ☐ 18" x 28" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 750

■ RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of recognition for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation carries a measure of legal protection (see Marker Policies 13 through 18), therefore a legal description (lot and block numbers) is required. The most commonly used marker for conveying the designation is the medallion and plaque (also referred to as a building marker); however, subject markers may also be used to provide more information. If the marker is to be mounted directly onto a structure, care should be taken to avoid damaging historic building material. Note that RTHL markers must go at the site for which the designation is given.

- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post\$ 525
- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 425
- ☐ 27" x 42" marker with post\$1,250
- ☐ 27" x 42" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$1,150
- ☐ 18" x 28" marker with post\$ 850
- ☐ 18" x 28" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 750

Legal description of property (lot and block number; metes and bounds):

All of lots 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of block 8 in the City of
Gladewater, Texas. Recorded in Gregg County Deed Records vol. A, p. 3.

■ HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKERS

The purchase and display of a historical marker is not a required component of the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation, but the THC offers options for those situations in which a marker will contribute to preservation or interpretation. Only cemeteries with the HTC designation are eligible for HTC markers, and the designation process must be complete before a marker application can be processed. Once the designation is awarded, no additional documentation is required for an HTC medallion or medallion with name and date plaque. For medallions with interpretive plaques, however, the same type of history and documentation required for subject markers and RTHL markers is necessary.

Medallions only and medallions with name and date plaques:

- ☐ Medallion only, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 250
- ☐ Medallion only, with hardware to attach to existing state historical marker post\$ 300
- ☐ Medallion only, with post\$ 400
- ☐ Medallion and 12" x 6" name and date plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 500
- ☐ Medallion and 12" x 6" name and date plaque, with post\$ 600

Medallions with interpretive plaques:

- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 650
- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque, with post\$ 750
- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 24" plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 850
- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 24" plaque, with post\$ 950

When the application packet is complete, forward the required application form, historical narrative, footnotes/endnotes, bibliography, photos and maps to the county historical commission. Once the authorized CHC representative has signed this form and reviewed the packet, mail both to: History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276.

For more information contact:
 Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division
 P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
 512/463-5853, Fax 512/475-3122
www.thc.state.tx.us
 Rev. 3/2003



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

THE HISTORY OF
THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF
GLADEWATER, TEXAS

In the mid 1840s portions of East Texas were sparsely settled. Indians had been the predominant occupants of this land until 1839. Anglo-Americans from the Deep South began to realize the advantage of moving to this new state and making a home among the forested rolling hills. Many of these pioneers were farmers and were betting their entire lives on the inexpensive, rich, fertile land of southeast Upshur County. (This area became Gregg County in 1873.)

There were several roads scattered throughout Upshur County because of the proximity of the towns of Jefferson and Shreveport. People as far west as Dallas traveled the Marshall-Tyler Road (now U.S. 80) to these cities to sell their cotton, wool and hides and to purchase supplies. Oxen-drawn wagons, often with as many as one hundred wagons in a train, followed this road. The drivers were jolly and rough and would pop their long cow whips so fast that the sound resembled that of rapid gun fire. Many early settlers entered this area of Texas from the east along this narrow clay road, often called the Red Rock Road in this area.

Early communities in this area were Red Rock, Bethel, Rock Springs, St. Clair and Point Pleasant. Although Stephen Austin settled in Texas in 1824 it was not until the Indians were removed in 1839 that Anglo settlers began to move into the area.

Development came much quicker when the railroad came to East Texas from Shreveport in the early 1870s. By 1873, the Texas and Pacific Railroad came to what was to be Gladewater. The town was platted and began to grow. As with all railroad towns schools and churches were high on the list of importance to the new citizens. However, most churches in Gladewater did not organize until after oil was discovered in 1930.

The original group of Methodists to organize a church held their first meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A Godfrey on October 1, 1922. Twelve adults and two children were present. The Rev. H. T. Perritt² of the First Methodist Church, Longview supervised the organization. This church was known as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.¹

From this modest beginning, the church membership grew and a one-room sanctuary was built in 1922. It was a one-room structure known as "the little white church", and built on a site purchased from the J. A Godfrey's for \$500.00. This site was located in Block 4 of the Martha Dillard headright survey and is currently part of the playground of Broadway Elementary School located at 200 Broadway Street.²

Shortly after the founding of the church the Woman's Missionary Society was organized. Since that time, the missionary society has supported the local church, community and worldwide projects with gifts and prayers.³

¹ Jeter, Mrs. Lyle, *The History of the First Methodist Church of Gladewater*, Gladewater Daily Mirror, December 24-27, 1953.

² "Methodists to Dedicate Church in Gladewater with All-Day Program", *The Gladewater Texas Daily Times-Tribune*, September 19, 1937.

³ Commemoration Booklet of the 50th Anniversary of Our church, First United Methodist Church [Gladewater, Texas].

Continued growth prompted the need for a new church. In 1930, the great East Texas Oil Field, the largest in the world at that time, resulted in an overnight population explosion in Gregg County. The town of Gladewater had a forest of oil well derricks and many refineries.⁴ Under the leadership of J. H. Malone (1932-1933) a new church site was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Thornton Bray for \$2,100.00. There was a cash payment of \$600.00 and three yearly installments of \$500.00 each. This church site is the corner of Quitman and Ferry Streets⁵ as recorded in Gregg County Deed Records vol., A., p. 3, February 25, 1933.

In 1933, construction of a "beautiful, modern seven room, cream colored brick residence" was completed. The Rev. J. H. Malone and family were the first to occupy the parsonage.

Under the pastorate of Erwin Jackson, the cornerstone for the present building was laid on December 18, 1935. The church was "red brick, split level building of traditional design with eight cathedral stained glass windows." Immediately behind the sanctuary, the two stories held classrooms and office space. The third story held classrooms and a prayer room. The church was dedicated two years later on September 18, 1937.⁶

When Rev. L. Eugene Harris (1947-1950) became pastor membership jumped from 684 to 937. Such tremendous growth made necessary the erection of the Education Wing/Fellowship Hall. This was added to the south side of the original building and completed in 1951. This construction provided a fellowship hall, a well-equipped kitchen

⁴ Gregg County Historical Commission files.

⁵ Commemoration booklet, *op.cit.*

⁶ *ibid.*

and church schoolrooms. On the back of the lot next to this Education Wing/Fellowship Hall's home was built for the new Minister of Music, Robert Godwin.⁷

"Air conditioning was added to both church offices and the entire church plant was air-conditioned by 1954." At the same time the parsonage was redecorated and a landscaping fund was established.⁸

The Methodist Men's Group was organized during the pastorate of Rev. Clyde Thomas (1955-1958). The purpose of the group was to promote active interest in church projects and programs.

The sanctuary was enlarged in 1957 with the additions of a balcony and the narthex. A stained glass window was put in the narthex and dedicated to the memory of Bala Leake, Jr., who died in action in World War II. The sanctuary was re-lighted, redecorated and re-carpeted at the same time.⁹

Under the guidance of Rev. Joe Strother (1958-1960), the parsonage was insulated and a new bath added. The Educational Wing/Fellowship Hall was repaired and extensively weatherproofed and painted. The church and steeple were re-roofed and exterior painting was given to both units.¹⁰

The Church began sponsoring Cub Scout Pack 106 in 1963 but discontinued this a few years later. Currently the church sponsors Boy Scout Troup 198 having begun in the year 2000.

Rev. Bryant Young began his service to this church in 1964 and

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ *ibid.*

continued through 1965. During his time of service the parsonage was air-conditioned. The outside of the church was repainted and the stained glass windows were cleaned and repaired.

From 1966 to 1972, Rev. James Brannan began his service to this church. During his tenure the last payment on the building note was made and the church was dedicated on October 22, 1966, as "The Methodist Church ". In 1968, the church became known as "The First United Methodist Church" when it joined with the United Brethren Methodist Church. The Fellowship Hall was renamed Jeter Hall in honor of Mrs. Lyle Jeter during this time period.

In 1967, Mr. and Mrs. C.Q. Abernathy donated the lot across from the sanctuary for parking and recreation.

A new parsonage was acquired under the pastorate of Rev. Frank Cady (1976-1983). The old parsonage was then named the Annex.

In the summer of 1973, an outreach project entitled Motor Development Training Program was directed by Mrs. John Marshall. It was offered to all pre-school children of the community who wished to participate. Approximately 100 children and about 20 parents participated. Plans for another similar program were made for 1974.

Since this time other outreach programs that have been initiated and recorded by the members of the First United Methodist Church are:

1989 Mothers' Day Out. This started as once a week and with a couple of years it had expanded to twice weekly.

1990 Creative Christians. A group of men and women meeting weekly to create things to sell and in turn spend the money

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#2
686

XGA

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Since this time other outreach programs that have been initiated and recorded by the members of the First United Methodist Church are:

1989 Mothers' Day Out. This started as once a week and with a couple of years it had expanded to twice weekly.

1990 Creative Christians. A group of men and women meeting weekly to create things to sell and in turn spend the money

for special projects and needs of the church.

1993 Gladewater Youth Basketball League. Providing an opportunity for children ages 6-12 to participate on an organized team and in competition with other teams..

1994 Children's Choir. This was open to all children in the community from first to fifth grades.

1998 Worship on Wednesday Service. A full meal was offered before a worship service to anyone in the entire community.

2000 Sponsor Boy Scout Troup 198.

Loris B. Williams

Partial editing by Norman Black

Pastors of the First United Methodist Church--Gladewater

J. L. Willis	1922-1923
Dr. W. K. Strother, Jr.	1923-1924
J. W. Shoemaker	1924-1925
J. N. Vincent	1925-1926
W. M. Bass	1926-1928
G. C. Childress	1928-1929
D. E. Sneller	1929-1932
A. A. Rider	1932
J. H. Malone	1932-1933
Erwin Jackson	1933-1936
Jesse C. Thompson	1936-1938
C. L. Williams	1938-1939
Clinton L. Bowen	1940
Joe C. Shaw	1941
M. R. Turner	1942-1947
L. Eugene Harris	1947-1951
Compton Riley	1951-1955
Clyde E. Thomas	1955-1958
Joe S. Strother	1958-1961
Donald R. Box	1961-1964
Bryant Young	1964-1966
James A. Brannen	1966-1971
Conrad W. Winborn	1971-1975
Carlos Davis	1975
Leon Grissom	1976
Frank Cady	1976-1983
Joe Fort, Sr.	1983-1986
D. Nick Scholars	1986-1988
Guy E. Pry	1988-1992
L. Clayton Gilpin	1992-1996
C. Wayne Flowers	1996-2002
John Newsome	2002-

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"Methodists to Dedicate Church in Gladewater with All-Day
Program."
Jeter, Mrs. Lyle, *The History of the First Methodist Church*, December 24, 1953.

Pastors of the First United Methodist Church--Gladewater

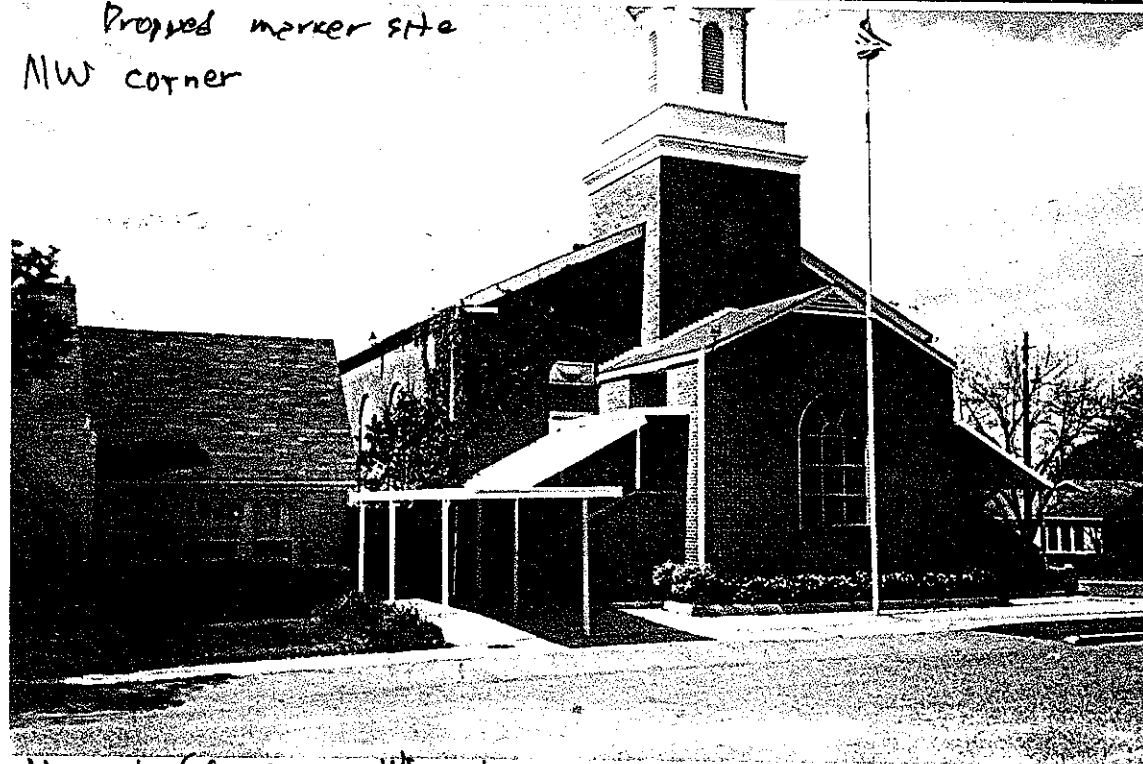
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Dr. W. K. Strother, Jr.	1923-1924
J. W. Shoemaker	1924-1925
J. N. Vincent	1925-1926
W. M. Bass	1926-1928
G. C. Childress	1928-1929
D. E. Sneller	1929-1932
A. A. Rider	1932
J. H. Malone	1932-1933
Erwin Jackson	1933-1936
Jesse C. Thompson	1936-1938
C. L. Williams	1938-1939
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Jeter, Mrs. Lyle, *The History of the First Methodist Church*, December 24, 1953.



Proposed marker site
NW corner

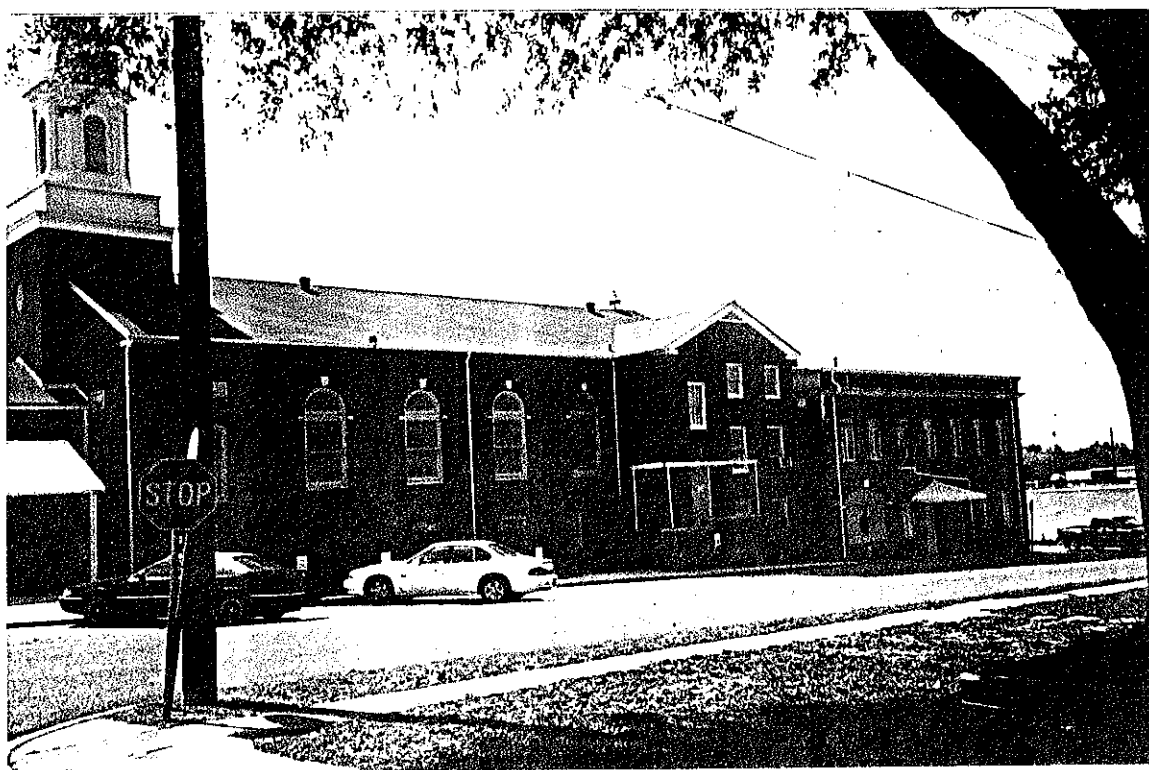


N. side (front) 208^W Quinmen St

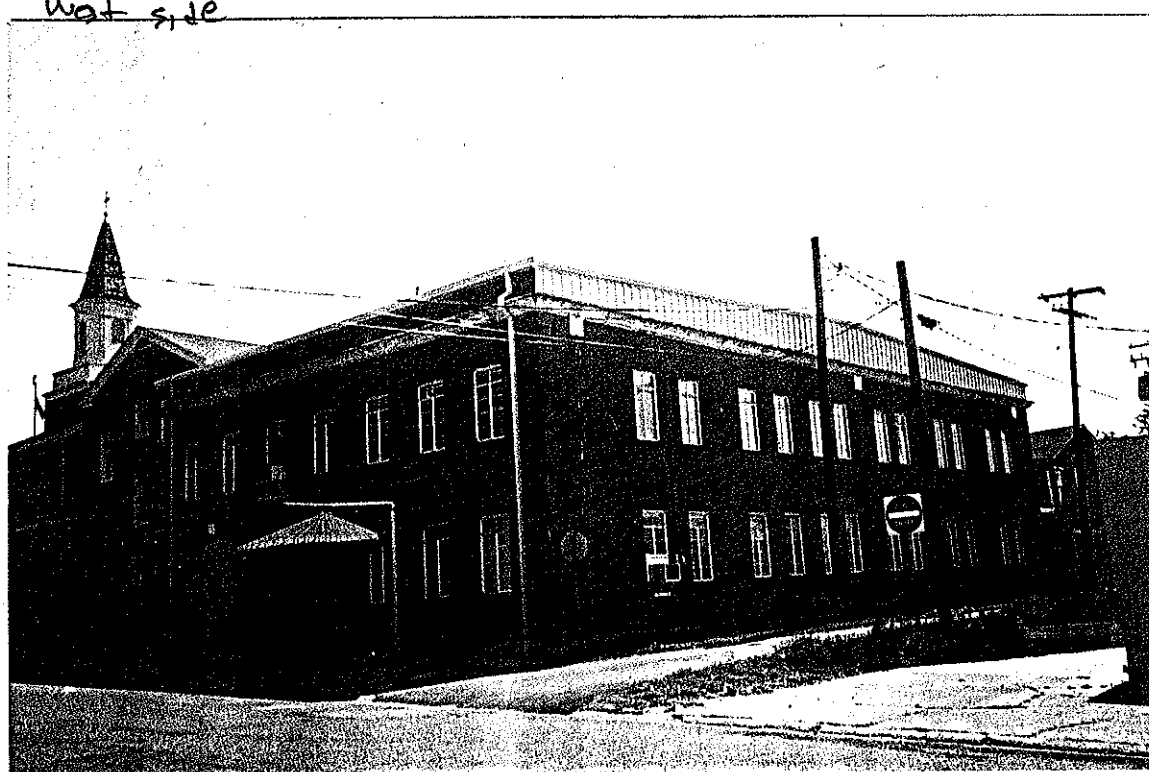


N. side

June 2004

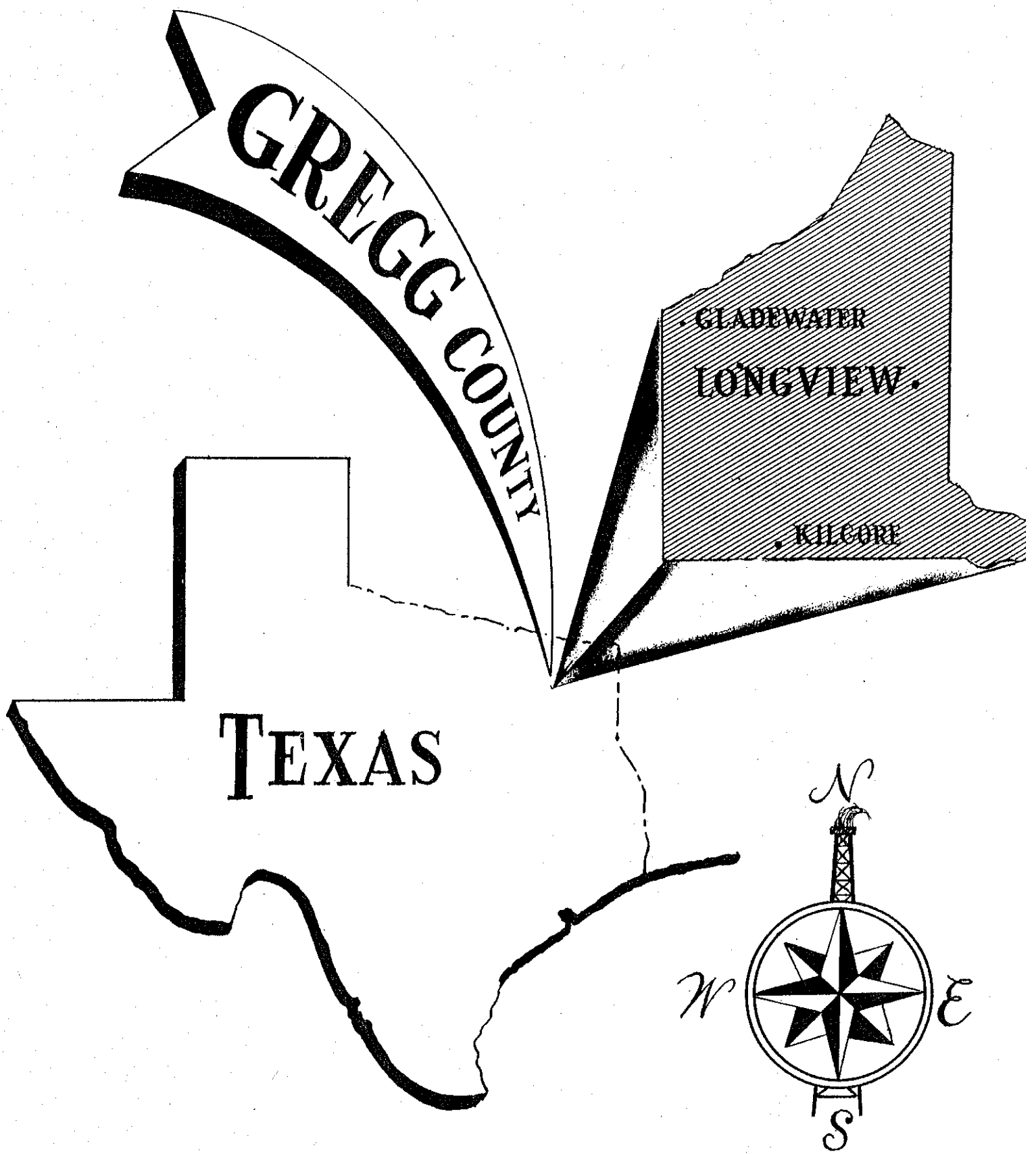


west side

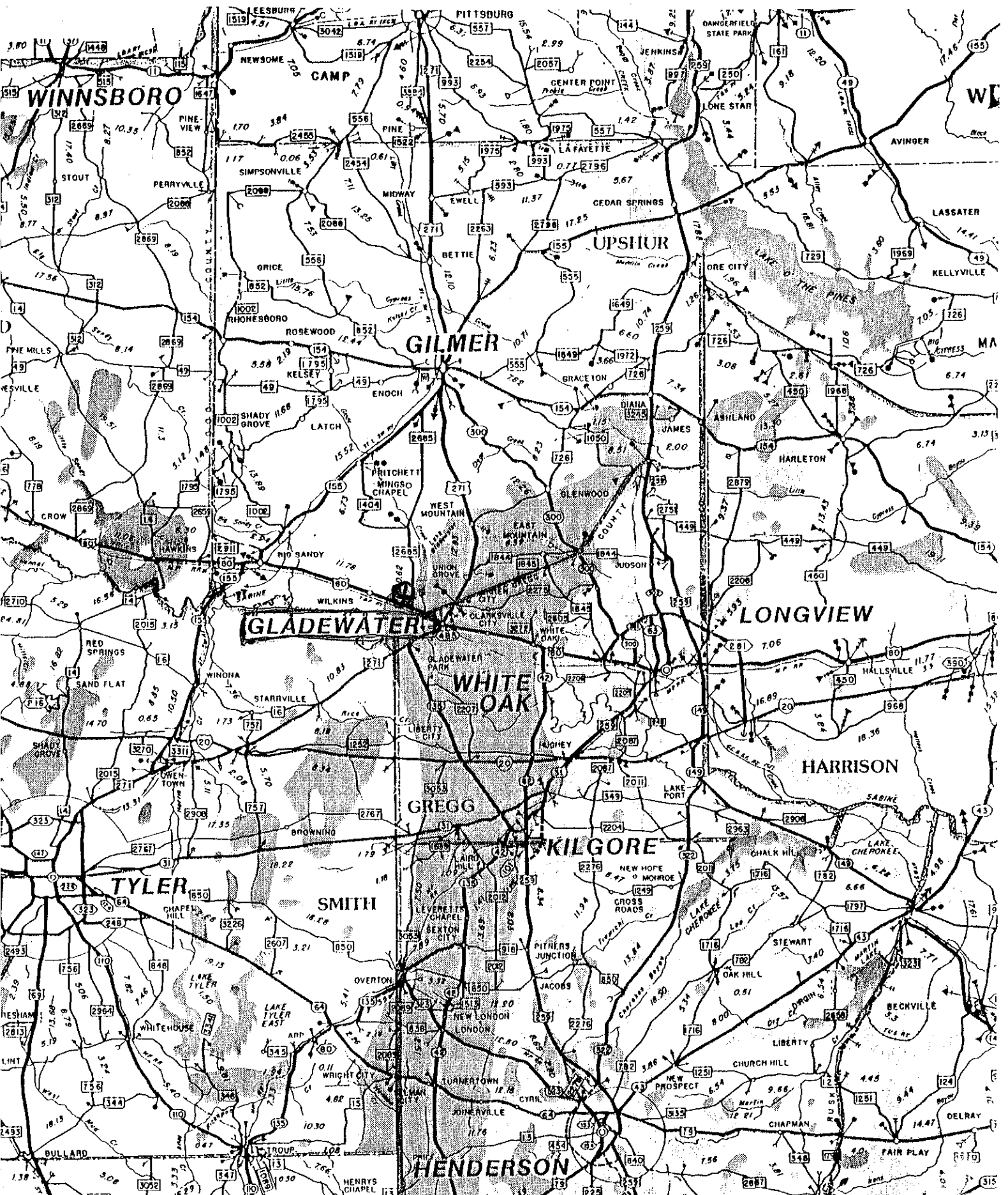


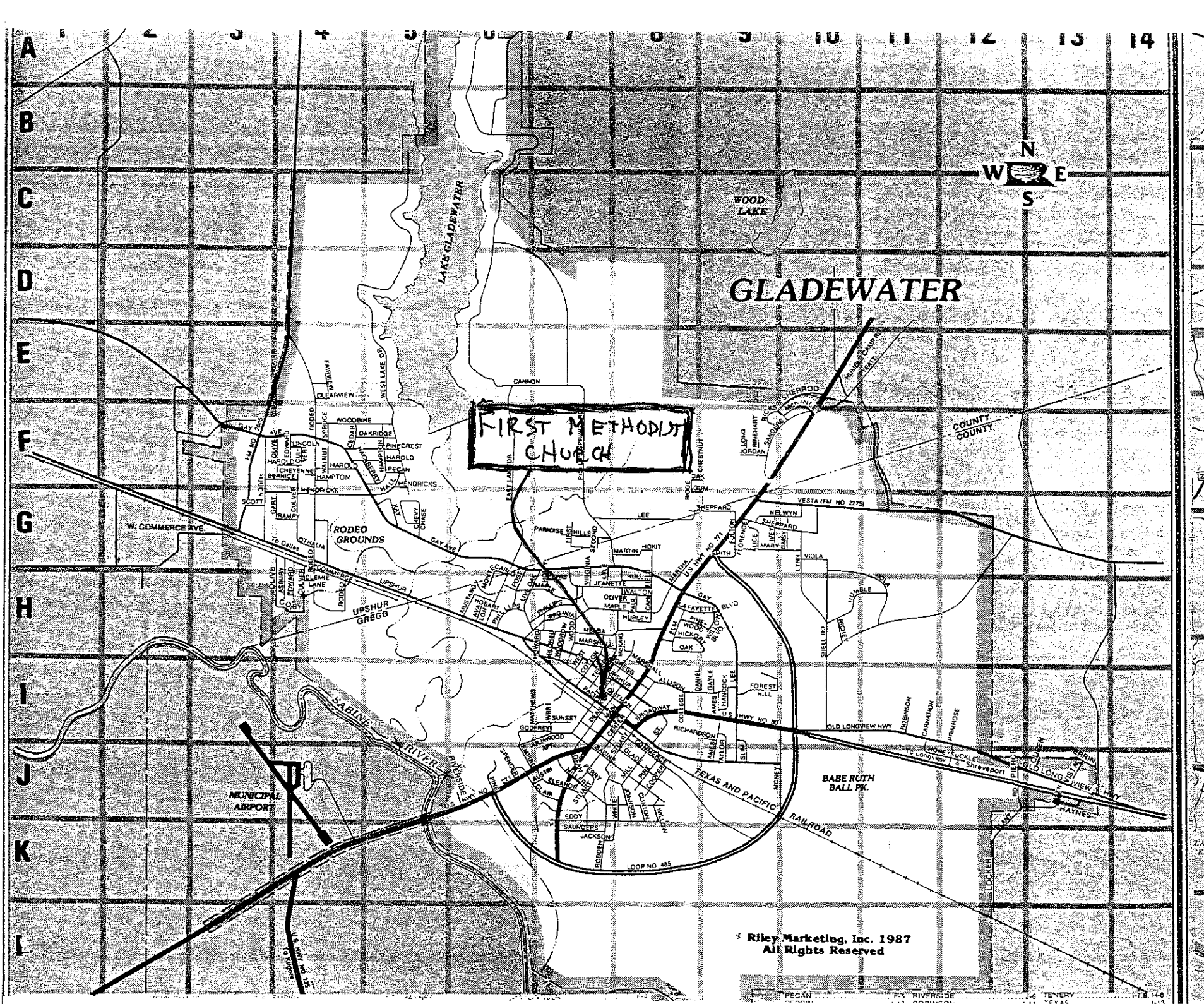
SW corner

June 2004



GREGG COUNTY





GLADEWATER

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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Building Methodism in Gladewater

The original group of Methodist to organize a church held their first meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Godfrey on October 1, 1922. The Reverend H.T. Perritte of the First Methodist Church, Longview supervised the organization. (1)

Those attending this meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey, their sons—Gordon and Wilson Godfrey, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Porter, Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Cox, Mrs. John Jeter, Mrs. Jeff Johnson, Mrs. Carl Everett, and T.M. Wadsworth. Other charter members were Mrs. Lillian Hendrix, Mrs. Tom Cole, Mrs. Sam Kay, Mrs. J.W. McComie, Bonnie and Ruby Cox, Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Magrill and E. A. Hearne, lay preacher. (1)

From the modest beginning in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey, the church membership began to grow and a one-room structure known as the "little white church" was constructed in 1923 on a site donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Godfrey. (1)

With the oil boom and the influx of people the membership grew rapidly creating the need for a larger church. Under the pastorate of Erwin Jackson, the cornerstone for the present building was laid on December 15, 1935. The dedication of this new church building was held on December 10, 1937 at an all day program. Dr. J. Z. Tower, District Superintendent of Tyler, formally accepted "The First United Methodist Church of Gladewater" that day. (2)

This church building was enlarged with a balcony and narthex in 1957. The renovations included relighting, redecorating, and new carpeting. This was accomplished under the chairmanship of Ovid Phillips. (3)

1. Mrs. Lyle Jeter, "The History of the First Methodist Church of Gladewater," Gladewater Daily Mirror, December 24-27, 1953
2. "Methodist to Dedicate Church in Gladewater with All-Day Program", The Gladewater Texas Daily Times-Tribune, September 19, 1937.
3. Commemoration Booklet of the 50th Anniversary of Our Church 1922/1972, First United Methodist Church.

A Prominent History in
the City of Gladewater, Texas
by Mary George Meade
- 1958

Spell out

A Prominent History in the City of Gladewater, Tex.

"Eight years before the virgin pines and lofty oaks were pushed aside to make way for tall steel structures better known as derricks and tanks, a small group of people with a pioneering spirit and a vision for the upward movement of Methodism started their contribution to the history of Gladewater, Texas."¹ Their contribution was the beginning of the First Methodist Church of Gladewater, which has played an important part in many lives and communities of East Texas. On October 1, 1922 the charter members of this church gathered in Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Godfrey's home to organize a Methodist church. They were assisted by

¹

Related to the writer by Mrs. Kyle Jete
on June 28, 1958.

(2)

Mrs. Carl
Grewett

the Reverend Peritt of Longview. The first stewards elected were J. A. Godfrey, G. R. Cox, J. M. Wadsworth, Mrs. John J. Jeter, and Mrs. Jeff Johnson. The bishop sent to this church the Reverend J. A. Willis, at this time a student minister from Southern Methodist University. "The beautiful spirit of community cooperation in Gladewater was exemplified by other churches opening their doors to this new church until a building could be erected to house the little congregation." ²

The first building site was contributed by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Godfrey, who also gave liberally of their time and money for the building of the church. Carpenters, storekeepers, farmers, and lay preachers worked long and faithfully on the building

² Ibid.

③
of the little white church.
Various projects were used to raise money. The first money-raising project for the congregation was to have a squirrel stew supper. The housekeeper also added her talents, and pie and cake sales were held.

The second pastor was Dr. W. K. Strother, former president of Lon Morris College. The Gladewater church was on a circuit with Winona, Starville, and Harris Creek. Those men of God who also served the church as pastors were Reverends J. N. Vincent, W. M. Bass, G. C. Childress, and D. E. Sneller.

"The oil boom brought an influx of people, and the enterprise begun by the little group was growing like the parable of the mustard seed." It became eventually necessary to have a full time pastor. More room

³
Ibid.

(4)

was needed, and rooms for Sunday school classes were built beside the church. On December 15, 1935, during the pastorate of Erwin Jackson, the corner stone was laid for the present building. At an all-day program on a beautiful autumn day, September 19, 1937, ¹⁹³⁷ Dr. G. Z. Jover, District Superintendent of the Tyler District, formally accepted "The First Methodist Church of Gladwater, Texas." ⁴ Later during Reverend Compton Riley's pastorate in 1951, a new educational building was added, and in 1954 air conditioning was installed. The Methodist Youth Fellowship beautified a third story room in 1956 and gave it to the church as the Prayer Room. It

⁴
Mrs. Lyle Jeter, "The History of the First Methodist Church of Gladwater," Gladwater Daily Mirror, December 24-27, 1953.

5

was financed by the money earned from the hard labor exerted on the part of the youth of the church and the contributions from the other members of the church.

The history of this church, an important factor in Gladewater, Texas, will continue as the future generations fulfill the dreams of their predecessors and add dreams and desires of their own.



**A Brief History of
First United Methodist Church**

**QUITMAN AT FERRY ST.
GLADEWATER, TEXAS**

Conrad Winborn, Pastor

**In Commemoration of the
50th Anniversary of Our Church
1922/1972**

AND

**GLADEWATER CENTENNIAL
1873/1973**



OUR CHURCH AS IT APPEARED IN 1949

Besides good fellowship, the purpose of the group was to promote active interest in church projects and programs. J. B. Poston, chairman of kitchen activities, Ed McMillen, Wilson Godfrey, Ames Lawrence, Burrel Duncan are only a few of the hard-working members of this organization. Through serving dinners, they have furnished and laid tile on floors of the Educational Building, purchased new office equipment, installed a dishwasher, ovens, a deep freeze, and cabinets in the kitchen, provided an all-weather awning at the double doors to the outside of the Jeter Hall, and recently have contributed \$1,000 to the purchase of the church bus.

In 1957 the sanctuary was completely relighted, redecorated, recarpeted, and enlarged by the addition of a balcony and a narthex under the chairmanship of Ovid Phillips, raising the evaluation of the church plant to \$252,000. Dr. Bain Leake dedicated the stained glass window in the narthex and the lighted cross in the sanctuary to his son, Bain Leake, Jr., a member of the church since nine years old, who died in action in World War II. Honoring her mother, Mrs. Jeff Johnson, a charter member, Mrs. Jim Bell presented altar furnishings, which now form the worship center in Jeter Hall. The complete remodeling of the parsonage raised its value to \$21,000. The legacies of \$858 from the estate of Mrs. Anne Stancil and \$10,000 from that of Murray Sells were applied to the \$35,000 cost of the improvements.

The first service held in the newly remodeled and redecorated sanctuary in February, 1958, was the First Annual Homecoming, giving friends a chance to see the new sanctuary after the completion of the building program. The Rev. Mouzon Bass, district superintendent of the

Longview District, was guest speaker for the morning service. An old-fashioned basket lunch was served at noon, after which guests and charter members were recognized. Dr. Joe Z. Tower, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Lufkin, conducted the evening service. Mrs. Mark Day was general chairman for this celebration.

In 1958 new members numbered 51.

During the ministry of Rev. Joe Strother (1958-1960), 119 members were added to the church roll. At the first Easter service 65 additions were received. Church officials made a special pledge for the Wesley Foundation at Kilgore College after Rev. Strother presented this need.

The parsonage was insulated through the courtesy of the Strothers, and the Women's Society of Christian Service added a new bath. The Educational Building was re-roofed, repaired, and extensively weatherproofed, as well as painted. The church and steeple were re-roofed, and the combined plants were given an exterior painting.

In 1960 special effort was made to retire the debt of the church. That year Rev. Mouzon Bass, who had become district superintendent of the Longview District in 1954, died and was replaced by Rev. Walter E. Willis.

While the Rev. Donald R. Box was pastor (1961-1963), the Fortieth Anniversary of the founding of the church was held on September 30, 1962. Rev. Box delivered the sermon of the day—"The Chaos of Compromise." As a part of the morning worship service, Mrs. Lyle Jeter was presented an engrossment, considered the "Nobel Prize" of Methodism, for twenty-six years of service as communion steward. Mrs. Mark Day, chairman of Communion of Christian Worship, made the presentation Mrs. Jeter.

A Brief History of First United Methodist Church of Gladewater

The First United Methodist Church is celebrating its 1972 Fiftieth Anniversary in conjunction with the 1973 Centennial Celebration of the city of Gladewater. Ninety years after entering Texas in 1833, organized Methodism reached Gladewater, though Methodist adherents worshiped in the area during the early 1900's.

On October 1, 1922, the First United Methodist Church of Gladewater had its beginning in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Godfrey. The Rev. H. T. Perrette, young pastor of the First Methodist Church, Longview, supervised the organization.

Present at this meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey, Gordon and Wilson Godfrey, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Cox, Mrs. John Jeter, Mrs. Jeff Johnson, Mrs. Carl Everett, and T. M. Wadsworth. Other charter members were Mrs. Lillian Hendrix, Mrs. Tom Cole, Mrs. Sam Kay, Mrs. J. W. McComie, Bonnie and Ruby Cox, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Magrill, and E. A. Hearne, lay preacher.

By 1923 the congregation numbered forty-five. Early additions included Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Jeter. Elected Sunday school superintendent in 1924, Mr. Jeter held this office until his death in 1948. For fifty years Mrs. Jeter has been a devoted, generous, beloved leader in the congregation, having served twenty-six years as communion steward.

During its first twenty-five years the Gladewater church was in the Tyler District. For about ten years it was on the Winona Circuit with two to five churches under Presiding Elders L. B. Elrod, W. F. Andrews, H. C. Willis, and W. F. Bryan. The first pastor was Rev. J. L. Willis, a student preacher from Southern Methodist University.

The first sanctuary was built south of the Broadway Elementary School on land donated by the Godfrey family. During the construction the small congregation worshiped in the Baptist and Church of Christ churches and the school building. Rev. Willis even helped in the construction, often being seen on the roof nailing shingles while Mr. Godfrey was cutting and placing siding.

The "little white church" was a one-room frame structure with a high, shingled roof, double front doors, protected by a small covered porch, a rear side door on the left, and five windows on each side. Hard, handmade uncomfortable benches served as pews. Sometimes a wide crack between the boards of a bench, according to Gordon Godfrey, caught part of a member's clothing and held

fast—much to his embarrassment! A wood stove furnished warmth in winter; hand fans appeared in summer. To escape the heat, the youth often retreated to the porch to hear their lessons or even to the coolness of the shade trees on the ground.

The first musical instrument was a handsome, old, semi-pipe, hand-pump organ, a gift from the First Methodist Church of Longview. Mrs. C. V. Rhodes and Mrs. Carl Everett were the first organists. Sometimes the pumper, usually Carl Everett, Jr., neglected or forgot to pump if something outside the window caught his eye, and the music slowed down or even stopped. A sharp look or a nudge recalled him to his duty, and suddenly the music became louder than ever before. After singing, the five choir members filed down to seats in front for the minister to see a larger congregation as he preached.

The first collection plates were tin skilletts. When the offering was being taken, however, the cling of coins was so audible that one day, while Mrs. Jeff Johnson and Mrs. Sam Kay were cleaning the church, Mrs. Ola Jeter recalls, they quietly hid these objectionable noise-makers behind the pipes of the organ where they were never found.

Later a piano was bought from Mrs. Lillian Hendrix for \$150, which Mrs. C. V. Rhodes, Bonnie and Ruby Cox, and Flossie Johnson, daughter of Mrs. Jeff Johnson, raised by canvassing the town with tin collection plates.

Rev. Willis conducted worship services only once a month, but Sunday school was held every Sunday. Mr. N. E. Porter was the first Sunday school superintendent. Rev. E. A. Hearne, Methodist lay preacher, and R. C. "Dad" Burnett, father of the late Dick Burnett, ably filled the pulpit in any emergency. Members always knew when Mr. Burnett felt they had not done their duty, Mrs. Carl Everett says, for he prayed a little louder and longer.

Two years after its construction the church was dedicated, in 1924. A Methodist church, though consecrated when it is built, is dedicated when it is free of debt. Dr. C. C. Selecman, of Southern Methodist University, delivered the dedicatory sermon and presided over the election of the following trustees and stewards: Mrs. John Jeter, Mrs. Carl Everett, J. A. Godfrey, G. A. Cox, T. M. Wadsworth, and Mrs. Jeff Johnson.

The first "protracted" meeting, held by Dr. King Vivion, Jacksonville, a great spiritual leader, brought a blessing to both the church and the community. Lewis Richardson, county clerk, of Longview, led the singing and

Mrs. Sturdevant To Open Music Studio September 14

Thelma Barnes Sturdevant, talented musician, will open studios in Gladewater September 14, according to announcement Saturday by Mrs. Sturdevant.

Mrs. Sturdevant has studied extensively under some of the greatest southern directors such as Frank Renard, the late Walter Axtell, Mae Forman Carr and she has spent the past summer studying the Progressive Series method under the capable direction of Mrs. H. Grady Ferrell in Tyler.

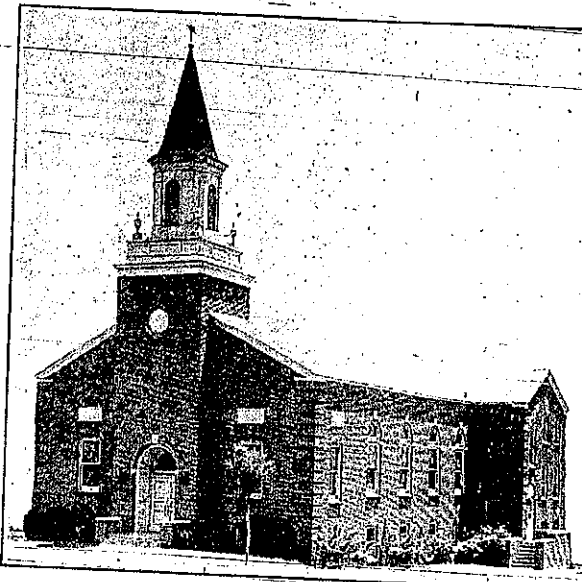
Mrs. Sturdevant won honorable mention in the Progressive Series Studio in St. Louis and made the highest grade in her examinations.

Mrs. Poston Opening Kindergarten Wednesday

Mrs. J. B. Poston will open her school for children from the age of three to six Wednesday morning in her home on the Gilmer highway.

Supervised play and regular kindergarten work will be the main features of the school. Dancing will be taught twice a week by Miss Rosalie Sherwood. Assisting Mrs. Poston with her school will be Miss Elsie Mae Arnett from Kernes, Texas. Miss Arnett and Mrs. Poston are sisters.

To Dedicate Church September 19th



Above is a new picture of the First Methodist Church of Gladewater which will be dedicated with appropriate services next Sunday, September 19, with Rev. Erwin Jackson of Bryan, pastor.

Students Are Preparing To Enroll At Colleges

Bags and trunks are being packed, shops are humming with the last minute shopping, and mother and dad are beginning to wonder what they will do this fall when Mary and John leave for school.

Gladewater will be represented at practically all of the South western schools when they open their doors for the 1937-38 session.

Miss Aileen Wood, daughter of Mayor and Mrs. A. J. Wood will re-enter the University of Texas in Austin to begin her junior work. Miss Wood is hoping to take Miss Melba Rose Wood, her cousin and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Wood with her. Melba Rose was a freshman in the Texas State College for Women in Denton last year.

W. C. White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh White will re-enter Texas A. & M. College at College Station this fall for his junior work.

Floyd Ruth, popular Gladewater high school football center for the past three years will enter as a freshman at Texas A. & M. College this fall if his plans work out.

Thurman Jones, one of the outstanding high school football players of the state for the past two years, is trying to decide between Texas Christian university in Ft. Worth and Harlin Simmons in Abilene. Miss Emma Pearl Jones will follow her twin brother to the school of his choice.

Carl Everett, Jr., left September 6 for his junior year at Kemper Military college, Boonville, Mo.

Miss Juliette Jane Canfield daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Canfield

Texas State Teachers college in Denton.

Miss Mary Ella Dickson will leave soon for Dallas where she will enter a business college.

Miss Francis Foshee will begin her freshman year at Baylor university in Waco.

Kilgore college has been the choice of Miss Mary Julia Solbert, Harding and Don Lawrence. Miss Geraldine Kilgo, Miss Vesta Swain, Miss Francis Weiser, Samuel Harris and Charles Rock.

Many more young people are making their last minute choice and the next few days will see a large number of Gladewater's high school graduating class of 1937 registering for college studies.

Personal Mention

About People You Know

Hugo Wynn of Mt. Pleasant visited friends in Gladewater Friday.

Dr. Shelton Barcus from Ft. Worth was a Gladewater visitor Friday evening and Saturday.

Miss Mahle Beck will arrive in Gladewater Tuesday night from New York. Miss Beck has been attending the Columbia University there this summer.

Captain V. M. Vansyckle sends greetings to his friends in Gladewater. Capt. Vansyckle is making his home in Corpus Christi.

Salvation Army's Revival Service Well Attended

Dr. H. A. Wheeler addressed a large crowd Friday night at the revival services held at the Salvation Army hall. Dr. Wheeler took his message from the 26th chapter of Matthews.

Much enthusiasm is being shown at the evening service and Captain Lester M. McKay invites every one to attend. There is special music offered at each meeting. Meetings continue through September 19.

Social Calendar

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The missionary society of the First Methodist church will hold their meeting at church at 2:30 o'clock. Miss Beatri of Tyler will give a resume on her work as missionary in war-torn China.

Circle one of the First Baptist church will meet at the church at 2:30 o'clock.

Circle three of the First Christian church council will be hostess to circle one and two at the church at 2:30 o'clock.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Mrs. W. W. Bradley will be hostess to her Tuesday bridge club in her home on North Main street at 2:30 o'clock.

Mrs. Hugh White will be hostess to her Tuesday bridge club in her home on north Main street at 2:30 o'clock.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

The Centennial Delphian will hold their first meeting of this year at 2:30 o'clock at the First Methodist church.

Mrs. S. D. Phillips will be hostess to her bridge club in her home on Gay avenue at 2:30 o'clock.

The Idalla Grove 221 of the Woodman circle will meet at the Jaycee park at 3:30 o'clock. The election of officers will be held.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Gladewater Garden Club will meet with the East Texas garden council at 10:30 o'clock for an all-day meeting at the First Baptist church.

Mrs. Lynn Tolbert will be hostess to the Friday club in her home at 2:30 o'clock.

Ladies day at the Gladewater country club. Golf tournament in the morning, lunch at 12 o'clock. This will be guest day at the club.

In 1906 the Empress of China decreed the use of opium unlawful. Being a habitual smoker and a sexagenarian, she cunningly framed the law to exclude persons over 60.

The Nazi government has ordered housewives to carry plates and baskets to the grocery store in an effort to economize on use of wrapping paper.

Until 1184 Paris France, was known as Lutetia.

Mrs. Mark I Club With

Mrs. Mark Day assisted by mother Mrs. S. D. Ury of Sulphur Springs, was hostess to her bridge club and several friends Thursday morning at an attractive breakfast and bridge party in country home on the Big Sam highway.

A profusion of rainbow asters, gladiolus and marigolds decorated the living room, den, and dining room where the guests were served breakfast at 9 o'clock.

In the bridge games that followed Mrs. Walter Bennett was high for guest and Mrs. J. York high for club members. Table cuts were won by Mrs. C. Jarrell, Mrs. W. R. Hitchcock, Mrs. S. D. Ury, Mrs. R. W. Bennett and Mrs. Loyce Phillips.

Rosalie S

DANCE

107 Ups

ALL TYPES PERSONAL STAGE EXPERIENCE

\$3 PER 2 LESSONS

Thelma Barnes

TEACHER OF PIANO

Piano L

Courses offered to elementary school and college

The Progressive Series Course comprising both the private instruction in class of the

STUDIOS LOCATED AT W AND FRED JETER HOME

(Residence—G)





TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Dr. Norman Black, 903/757-2261
Loris B. Williams, 903/845-4811

FROM: Linda C. Henderson

RE: First United Methodist Church of Gladewater
Gregg County, Job # 26904

DATE: June 15, 2005

Enclosed is the *revised* inscription for the aforementioned marker. Please review it for accuracy, verify the proposed location, and check names, dates and facts. Please note the following:

- Because this is for an Official Texas Historical Marker, the final wording is up to the Texas Historical Commission; we will, however, consider any substantive changes you might suggest.
- If you have corrections to recommend, please make them on the attached copy and return it to me. We ask that you *not* type a new version of the inscription.
- If you suggest adding information not included in the narrative history, we will need a typed addendum to the file with appropriate documentation and notes.
- Please keep in mind that the inscription space is limited, so any suggested additions should be accompanied by suggested omissions.
- The inscription draft you received is a working copy for the foundry's use; the right-hand margin will be justified on the finished marker.
- If the requested changes are minor and agreed upon by all parties, no additional approval letter will be sent. Therefore, please consider and proof the text carefully before sending it back to the THC.
- **Please do not set a dedication date until you have received the marker. Due to the many variables in the process, we cannot guarantee delivery dates.**

The marker cannot be ordered until we have approvals from each person noted above. Please confer with each other to ensure consensus and to minimize the number of rewrites, which can slow the marker process for you and for others.

Contact me with any inscription questions at the agency address or at the following:

Email: linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us * Phone: 512/463-5851 * Fax: 512/475-3122

Notes: Please let me know if you have any questions.

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 2/27/2005; revised 6/8/05

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Gregg County (Job #26904) Subject CH, ME (Atlas 13264) UTM: 15 317343E 3601563N

Location: Gladewater, 208 W Quitman

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF GLADEWATER**

DEVELOPED AS A RAILROAD TOWN IN THE 1870s, GLADEWATER GREW SLOWLY BUT STEADILY IN THE FIRST DECADES OF ITS EXISTENCE. IN 1922, TWELVE ADULTS AND TWO CHILDREN LED BY THE REV. H.T. PERRITTE OF LONGVIEW MET IN MR. AND MRS. J.A. GODFREY'S HOME TO ORGANIZE A CONGREGATION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH. THEY SOON BUILT A SIMPLE ONE-ROOM SANCTUARY. THE CHURCH AND THE TOWN EXPERIENCED DRAMATIC GROWTH BEGINNING IN THE 1930s, WHEN A LOCAL OIL BOOM BROUGHT MORE RESIDENTS. SINCE THAT TIME, MEMBERS HAVE FORMED WOMEN'S AND MEN'S GROUPS TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH AND ITS MANY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

(2005)

Check one and sign:

- ☒ I approve text as written. Proceed with order.
☐ I approve text with minor revisions as noted. Proceed with order.
☐ I request these revisions and a new copy of text.

Signed:

Dr. Anna H. H. H.

6-20-05



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Dr. Norman Black, Loris B. Williams
FROM: Dan K. Utley
RE: First United Methodist Church of Gladewater, Gregg County
DATE: August 7, 2004

We received your application for an Official Texas Historical Marker, and we look forward to working with you on the project. Please refer to your guidelines and application booklet, or check our web site (www.thc.state.tx.us) under "markers and designations," for information on the application process.

We have checked the application to be sure it includes all required components. If items are missing, they will be noted below and should be submitted as soon as possible so we can proceed with our full evaluation once the application comes up for review in approximately 45 days. Please note that in order to be fair to all marker applicants, we review the applications in the order in which they are received. **Because of the many variables and the length of time involved in the marker process, we are unable to estimate or promise delivery dates.** Please do not set a dedication date until the marker is received.

Items needed:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None; packet is complete. Thanks! | <input type="checkbox"/> Site plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature of authorized CHC member | <input type="checkbox"/> Floor plan delineating any changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature of marker site property owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Current photos of all exterior sides* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Type and size of marker requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph of the proposed marker site* | <input type="checkbox"/> Street address or directions to marker site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documented narrative history | <input type="checkbox"/> City/county map showing marker location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliography of sources cited | <input type="checkbox"/> Name, address, phone of marker recipient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endnotes or footnotes | <input type="checkbox"/> Name and address of person who will pay for the marker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal description of property | <input type="checkbox"/> Application form outdated; current form required |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative should be double-spaced | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see additional notes below) |

**Black and white photographs preferred; digital images, photocopies and instant camera pictures are not acceptable for our review purposes.*

Additional notes: None

For check-in and evaluations:

Dan K. Utley
Chief Historian
512/475-2692
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

The Texas Marker Team

For inscription questions:

Linda C. Henderson
Historian
512/463-5851
linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us

For billing and shipping:

Egina Reyes
Office Manager
512/463-6063
egina.reyes@thc.state.tx.us

First United Methodist Church—Gladewater

Historical Marker Dedication

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Norman Black,
Chairman Gregg County Historical
Commission

Invocation: Reverend John Newsome

Introduction of Guests: Reverend John Newsome

Bishop
District Superintendent
Past Pastors
Mayor

Dedication of Marker: Dr. Norman Black

Unveiling of Marker: Gordon Godfrey & Marilyn Godfrey

Reading of Test: Loris B. Williams

Benediction: Dr. Jerry Neff



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 7, 2004

Mrs. Loris B. Williams
P O Box 321
Gladewater, TX 75647

RE: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GLADEWATER
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker w/ post
Job # 26904; Gregg County

Dear Mrs. Williams:

I am pleased to notify you that the Texas Historical Commission has approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Payment for the marker, in the amount of \$850.00, is now due. Please complete and return the enclosed payment form at your earliest convenience. Once payment for the marker is received, your application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission congratulates you on your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan K. Utley".

Dan K. Utley
Chief Historian
History Programs Division
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

pc: Dr. Norman Black, Gregg CHC



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

P.O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276

HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION
512/463-6063

Official Texas Historical Marker
Payment Form

Marker Title: First United Methodist Church OF Gladewater

County: Gregg Job Number: 26904 Amt. Enclosed: \$850.00

Please specify method of payment: ☒ Check enclosed*
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

*Checks should be made payable to **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Credit card number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

FOR THC OFFICE USE ONLY:

Remittance #: _____

Check #: _____

Amount: _____

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 2/27/2005

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Gregg County (Job #26904) Subject CH, ME (Atlas 13264) UTM: 15 317343E 3601563N

Location: Gladewater, 208 W Quitman

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF GLADEWATER**

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(2005)

Check one and sign:

- ☐ I approve text as written. Proceed with order.
☐ I approve text with minor revisions as noted. Proceed with order.
☐ I request these revisions and a new copy of text.

Signed: _____



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Dr. Norman Black, 903/757-2261
Mrs. Loris Williams, 903/845-4811

FROM: Linda C. Henderson

RE: First United Methodist Church of Gladewater
Gregg County, Job # 26904

DATE: March 17, 2005

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the aforementioned marker. Please review it for accuracy, verify the proposed location, and check names, dates and facts. As you review the inscription, please note the following:

- Because this is for an Official Texas Historical Marker, the final wording, including punctuation, style and grammar, is up to the Texas Historical Commission.
- If you have corrections to recommend, please make them on the attached copy and return it to me. We ask that you *not* type a new version of the inscription.
- If you suggest the addition of new information not included in the narrative history, we will need a typed addendum to the file with appropriate documentation and notes.
- Inscription space is limited, so any suggested additions should be accompanied by suggested omissions.
- The draft you received is a working copy for the foundry's use; the right-hand margin will be justified on the finished marker.
- If the requested changes are minor and agreed upon by all parties, no additional approval letter will be sent. Therefore, please consider and proof the text carefully before sending it back to the THC.
- We cannot mention anyone who has not been deceased for 10 years or more.
- **Please do not set a dedication date until you have received the marker. Due to the many variables in the process, we cannot guarantee delivery dates.**

The marker cannot be ordered until we have approvals from each person noted above. Please confer with each other to ensure consensus and to minimize the number of rewrites, which can slow the marker process for you and for others.

I will be your contact person for all inscription questions, so please contact me at the agency address or at the following:

Email: linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us * Phone: 512/463-5851 * Fax: 512/475-3122

Notes: Please let me know if you have any questions.