

## **History of G.W. Long Memorial Presbyterian Church**

In 1867, white missionaries came South from the North and began to build and organize churches and schools for black people, who were then in the period of Reconstruction. In that year (1867), both the Pee Dee Union Baptist Church and the John Welsey United Methodist Church were organized in Cheraw.

It was not until 1881, the Freedmen's Board of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. authorized the organization of the first preaching station in Cheraw. Second Presbyterian Church, as we know it today, George Waldo Long Memorial Church. Mrs. Carolina E. Coulter of Hanover, Indiana, then Secretary of the Women's Department of the Board of Missions for Freedmen, authorized the first day school and church to be opened with the Rev. J.P. Crawford; first teacher, then pastor of the church.

Rev. George Waldo Long, just out of Seminary at Biddle University (now Johnson C. Smith) came to Cheraw during the summer of 1908 for one summer's work. Dr. John M. Gaston, then Secretary of the Work for Colored People, came to Cheraw that same summer, with the express idea of closing the work as hopeless. George W. Long persuaded him not to close the work, but to give him a chance and he remained here for thirty-five years. Under his administration as pastor of the church and head of the school, a high school was developed; a junior college was added; the church rebuilt in 1927, and at about the same time, an administration building was constructed, which remains today.

All that was mortal of George Waldo Long ended on August 3, 1943. The church remained vacant until 1945. During those years, the church held itself together with a few faithful people. Henry L. Marshall, an elder of the church and teacher in the school, was chosen principal of Coulter Memorial Academy. The church will ever be indebted to Rev. Abraham H. Prince who served as moderator and the Rev. Dr. Fleming Williams Prince, a retired Baptist minister, who preached practically every Sunday.

It was then that Cheraw Second United Presbyterian Church had the reputation for having the best Christian Education program in the community. Rev. John Morton Ellis was installed as pastor in 1945. Rev. U.S. Leverett served the church for a decade, during the Civil Rights Era. When Rev. Leverett left, the church was again without installed leadership until Dr. John B. Quick was installed as pastor in February 1981. It was during his tenure that the church celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In 1983, the Fellowship Building was dedicated and named after George Waldo Long. Thus, the community started calling the church G. W. Long Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Julia Prince became Stated Supply in 1987 and installed pastor from 1987-1997. She worked closely with the youth having started "Saturday's Children" as a noteworthy program. Rev. Samuel Sparks, Rev. Dr. Annette Brewer, Pastor Elijah Washington, Rev. Kyle Henderson, Pastor William Johnson and Pastor Marshall Ivey have served this church faithfully over the years.

G.W. Long Memorial Presbyterian Church's motto is "Education is the keystone of our faith." Yet we do not boast but know that all thanks should go to God who has made us instruments of his chosen people to carry out His one great mission, He has done through Jesus Christ.