

## 9 FAMILY LIFE CENTER, 1996

In 1996, a new Family Life Center was completed under the leadership of Dr. Don Pike. Wide hallways, new Sunday School classrooms and offices, and the Great Hall dedicated "To the glory of God and in honor of James Knapp" are located here. The Great Hall is used by sports teams, by service clubs, for dinners and receptions and each Sunday is the site for our Contemporary Worship Service.

(Turn the corner on North Street for the last stop)



## 10 HISTORICAL PLAQUES, 2014

The Dedication of the North Street and Gene Patrick Plaza included the addition of these two historical plaques. One plaque, entitled "Keepers of the Faith," names our 47 ministers with the dates they served this church. The other plaque records our church's history.

**OUR METHODIST HERITAGE**

In 1877, Methodist worship was held in the home of Mrs. James C. ...

*Century Methodist Episcopal Church*

A historic ...

*First United Methodist Church of Arlington*

We thank God for ...

**SENIOR MINISTERS**  
Keepers of the Faith 1878-2013

J. L. ...	J. ...	W. ...	R. ...
D. ...	A. ...	M. ...	T. ...
George ...	J. ...	W. ...	C. ...
W. ...	W. ...	W. ...	J. ...
S. ...	E. ...	W. ...	C. ...
R. ...	E. ...	W. ...	W. ...
J. ...	E. ...	S. ...	G. ...
F. ...	H. ...	G. ...	J. ...
A. ...	W. ...	W. ...	D. ...
D. ...	W. ...	A. ...	B. ...
John ...	J. ...	J. ...	D. ...



# A Historical Tour of Arlington's Oldest Church

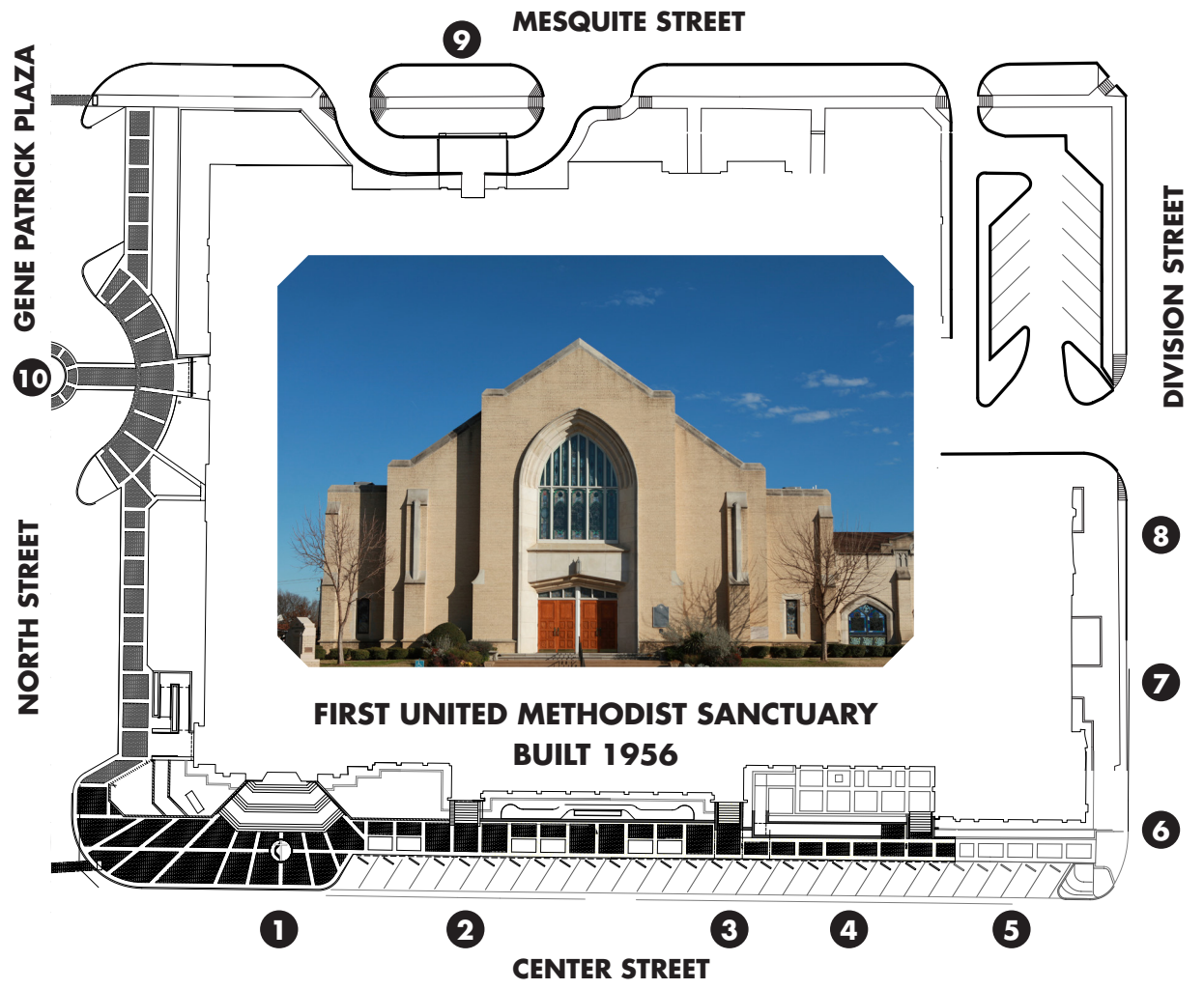
## MEMORIAL HISTORIC WALKWAY SELF-GUIDED TOUR

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON

*Est. 1878*

313 N. Center St. Arlington, TX 76011  
817.274.2571 | [firstumcarlington.org](http://firstumcarlington.org)

# Memorial Historic Walkway



*Join us for worship!*

For more information on worship times and services, visit us online at [arlingtonmethodist.org](http://arlingtonmethodist.org)

View the tour online at [firstumcarlington.org/HistoricWalkway.pdf](http://firstumcarlington.org/HistoricWalkway.pdf)



This completes the tour of the Memorial Historic Walkway. We invite you to join us in worship in this beautiful historic church as we continue a vital outreach to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

### 1 PRESENT SANCTUARY, BUILT 1956

This Sanctuary was consecrated February 12, 1956. Rev. Chet Hensen was minister. Our previous sanctuary, located on the N.E. corner of Center and Division Streets burned in November, 1954. A few of the stained glass windows were saved and installed here. The name changed from First Methodist to First United Methodist Church following the Uniting Conference of the Methodist and Evangelical Brethren Churches in 1968. Built to seat 1,000 worshippers for a cost of \$360,000, major updates were done in 1976 and 2013. Of special interest in the interior are the carving of the Last Supper on the communion table, the stained glass windows, the needlepoint tapestries, and the symbol carvings on the entrance doors.

### 2 BOB & BILLIE LIDDELL FAMILY MEMORIAL HISTORIC WALKWAY, 2017



The Plaque on the face of the building, awarded in 2010 by the City of Arlington Landmark Preservation Commission, recounts the history of the church. It marks this church, established in 1878, as the oldest church in the Original Township of Arlington.

Inside the covered walkway, which was added in 1976, is a newly established Columbarium and Memory Wall where loved ones can "rest in peace" and be remembered. (Dedicated 2014)

This walkway honors the history of our church, the Liddell Family, and the memory of Bob Liddell who passed away April 2016.

### 3 EDUCATION BUILDING, 1949

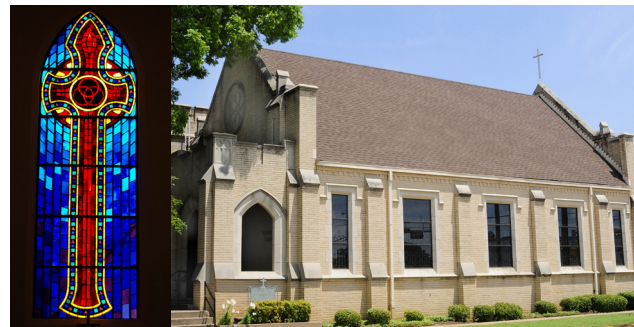
The Education Building was formally opened December 11, 1949. Rev. John Wesley Ford had arrived in June following a tragic parsonage fire

that killed Ruby Reed Sutton, wife of the previous minister, Rev. C.A. Sutton. The doors of this building are dedicated to her memory. Rev. Sutton came back from his new appointment to lead the service. A plaque listing all WWII servicemen serving from our church in 1941 hangs in the hallway. It memorializes those from our church who gave their lives. This is the oldest building remaining on the campus.



### 4 VANDERGRIFF CHAPEL, 1965

Dedicated on January 31, 1965, this Gothic Style Chapel was a gift of the W.T. Vandergriff family. Each of the brightly colored faceted glass windows depict key events in the life of Christ. The largest window over the altar pictures the empty cross symbolizing the living Christ. The gift included, not only the windows, but the entire chapel furnishings of pews, cushions, carpet, and a Hammond electric organ. The chapel is designed to seat 145 persons. Dr. G. Alfred Brown was minister at the time of the dedication. In 2013, an Hispanic ministry was begun. Each Sunday at 9:30, worship services are held here. Bible Studies prayer vigils, and other special services are also a part of this ministry. (Contact the church for information)



### 5 CENTENARY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH 1885

In 1885, the Methodists bought property from the railroad and constructed a small frame church with a spire and a bell tower on the N. E. corner of Center & Division Streets. Rev. R. H. Adair was minister and the story is told that his son, Chris, solicited money from Arlington citizens to buy an Altar Bible for the new church. Chris came home with more than enough money to buy Arlington's first Altar Bible. Records note that Rev. Adair began Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting. This frame church was relocated North on the lot to make room for a new brick church built in 1907. The cornerstone of the 1885 church is incorporated into the South narthex wall of the 1956 sanctuary.



(Continue around corner to Division St. for Stop 6.)

### 6 CENTENARY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH 1907

In 1906, a building committee was selected to build a new brick church to replace the white frame church on the corner of Center & Division Streets. Members of the building committee C.A. Hargett, Mike Ditto, J.D.Cooper, C.B. Berry, P. B. McNatt, John Yates, and J.P. Fielder are listed on the cornerstone which is embedded in the South narthex wall of the 1956 sanctuary. Ed R. Wallace was minister. A 1906 directory was placed in the cornerstone and was discovered when this beautiful church was consumed by fire in 1918. The tattered directory is preserved in the FUMC Archive.



### 7 CENTENARY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH 1918

In 1918, a new brick church was built on the burned foundation of the 1907 church. Art glass windows and Arlington's first pipe organ graced the new church. The organ was gifted by the R.A. Covington family, and the J.P. Fielder family financed the organ pipe room and the choir loft. One window from the 1907 sanctuary was saved and placed in the 1918 church. The single star memorializes an unknown WWI veteran from our church and the window now graces our present sanctuary. Rev. W.J. Hearon, minister, oversaw the construction. A church conference in 1947 voted to change the church's name to First Methodist Church.



### 8 TABERNACLE

A tabernacle, erected east of the church on Division Street, was financed and used by several Arlington churches for revivals and special events. The minutes of The Ladies Society of the M.E. Church (1885) state "we have the flooring and seating in hand" and the other societies have "signified their willingness to help". An expenditure of \$264 is recorded to pay for the Revival Tabernacle. Rev. E.V. Cox was minister. (Turn corner and continue N. on Mesquite St.)

