HISTORY

of

ACWORTH CHARGE

Acworth Church
Several years before the Civil War a group of settlers from South Carolina moved into the Acworth settlement. They were Methodists and the men were Masons. Among those in this group were B. D. Ragsdale, Jacob Westbrook, Clark McLain, Mr. Putrell and Jake House. In 1858 these new settlers organized a Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and a Masonic Lodge. Lumber was hauled from Burnt Hickory Ridge at night and a two-story building was erected on the spot where the new school building now stands. The lower floor was used for church services and the upper floor was a Masonic Hall.

When Sherman made his march to the sea Acworth was in his path. It is reported that Sherman made temporary headquarters in a brick school building near by. As Sherman was a Mason he spared the church from destruction because of the Masonic Hall in the building. Services were held in this structure until 1905.

In the meantime other Methodists moved into the community, G.W. McLain coming in 1896 and W. H. Tanner in 1903. Under the pastorate of Rev. Oscar Kelley, in 1905, a brick church was erected closer in to the business center of the town. The members of the Building Committee were Dr. E. M. Bailey, Dr. William Burtz, Henry Lewis, G. W. McLain, W. M. Webb and W. H. Tanner. Many improvements and additions have been made in the church building since that time. During the pastorate of Rev. C. F. Hughes some Sunday School rooms were added. Since that time other improvements have been made during the pastorates of Rev. Charles L. Allen, Rev. Harvey Holland, Rev. Parks Segars. Rev. H. O. Green, Jr. and Rev. Charles D. Read. A beautiful memorial window remains back of the pulpit in honor of Rev. A. J. Hughes.
The missionary work of the women of the church was organized in 1898. Mrs. W. M. Webb was elected its first president and she served in that capacity for a number of years. Among the charter members were Miss Nettie Brewster and Mrs. E. M. Bailey. Under the inspiration of the missionary spirit of the church, Miss Deanie Noyes, a daughter of Prof. W. J. Noyes who was principal of the Acworth School, was called into missionary work and spent a number of years in Korea where she gave a large part of her life to converting Koreans to Christianity. Out of the Acworth church also went Rev. Pierce West, who today is still preaching in the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Church.

Among those whose service and influence have reached out beyond the local church is Mr. W. P. Sprayberry, a loyal layman, whose untiring work and influence has rendered valuable service to District and Conference leadership in the activities of the laymen's work. Another outstanding leader is Mrs. L. M. Awtrey who has been a delegate to four General Conferences and to the Uniting Conference. For twelve years she was President of the Women's Work of the North Georgia Conference. She was a member of the General Board of Missions and of the reorganized Board of Missions and Church Extension.

The present enrollment of the Acworth Methodist Church is about 300. The rest of the reported membership is at County Line Methodist Church, a small but loyal congregation which for some time has been a part of the Acworth Charge, and where services are held one Sunday in the month.

We are working that we may "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."