A SHORT HISTORY OF ALLENS CHURCH

Allens Methodist Church had its beginning in a home where a group of Christians met for a prayer meeting to pray for a sick person. This group of devout Christians decided to hold services in a log house regularly.

In about 1790 a church was organized. Allens Church was named after the Allen family who were among the leading members of the early church. Other families that were noted in the early church were the Dorsey's, Pricketts, and Quillians.

The site of the first church was not far from Hunters Creek (near what is now the Burnette place). The old cemetery is still there.

The next building was on the present site of Negh Allens or Ellis Chapel. Some of the earlier members of the church during this period were: Joshua and Drucilla Mabry, John Ledbetter, Mary Adams, Ephriam Mabry, Mary Williams, Susan and Robert Verner, Issac Taber, Elizabeth Ann Morgan, and Sarah Mabry.

Mr. James Mabry tells us in his history, that the church was organized in the year 1790 or there about. We do not know anything much about his early church. He gave the names of some of the early members as being the Allens, Pricketts, Quillians, and Dorseys.

In searching the old records, we found that these people were not granted any land here until the Lottery System of granting land was established in 1818. The Church that these people belong to, stood up, what is now known as the Dock Burnette place. The Cemetery is still there. The graves that are marked are: John Ledbetter, died August 6, 1856; T. S. Ledbetter, died August 4, 1852; M. J. Mabry, died in December 1856; and M. A. Mabry died in 1871.

This church was later moved close to where the negh church stands today (Ellis Chapel).

The first name on the register shows that Reverend John Oliver was Pastor in 1832.

In 1872 Riley Cox, E. C. Vandiver, and J. W. Crump gave land for a new church building where the present church site is located. Records show that Reverend S. D. Evans was Pastor at that time.

Charter members of the new church were: James Mabry, Quincy Adams, Riley Cox, J. W. Crump, and John Ledbetter.

A Campground was built in 1875 and continued until 1889.

There were many great revivals during the early years of the Church, one of which was in the year 1875, under the ministry of Reverend H. H. Mashburn. Two years later Dr. Warren T. Hunnicutt started a boy's prayer meeting which was attended regularly by most of the boys in the community. A number of the boys were converted in these prayer meetings.

Sunday School has been held the year around since 1887 when a heater was purchased.

Some of the faithful Sunday School Superintendents have been: Captain Sligh, John McCay, Andy Hall, David Akin, Bob Saby, George Crenshaw, James Andrews, and Pat Milford is the present Superintendent.

The regular monthly preaching services has been held continuously through the years on the First Sunday in the month. Since July, 1958, services are held in the first and third Sundays of each month.

A brief sketch of the church would be incomplete without mention of The Woman's Missionary Society organized about 78 years ago. Some of the early members were: Mrs. G. L. King, Mrs. D. C. Crenshaw, Mrs. Quincy Adams, Mrs. Fannie Hunnicutt, and Mrs. J. E. Sligh.
For a few years the Society was discontinued, but about 1916 it was re-organized, and under the leadership of Miss Kittie Sligh (Now Mrs. H. J. Chapman) and Miss Sallie Hall became quite active again. At present Allens has an active W. S. C. S. with Mrs. A. V. Bailey serving as president.

The Epworth League was organized in October, 1896, and has continued (except for short intervals) to meet on Sunday Nights. It is now called Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Through the years many names have been added to the register of members — names of men and women who have been leaders in the community, county, staten and church.

The great work which has been done by this famous old Church needs no finer monument that the lives of some of the leading pastors of State who received their early church training here. Among these names were the following preachers who have gone out to preach the gospel; namely, Rev. W. P. King, Dr. George L. King, Dr. Warren T. Hunnicutt, Rev. John Hall, Rev. Clarence Hall, Rev. Glenn LeCroy, Rev. Wilton Quillian, Rev. Joe Quillian, Rev. Shelton Adams, and Rev. Dean Milford.

Miss Eva Crenshaw has gone out into Christian service as a Deaconess from the church.

In 1950 a new brick church with adequate Sunday School rooms, and a basement to serve as a Fellowship Hall was built replacing the one built in 1872. In 1954 new pews replaced the old ones.

In 1955 a new carpet was put on the floor. Later kneeling pads were added to the altar. Chimes were installed in the church.

In 1956 an organ was purchased.

This year (1962) the church has added Rest Rooms, enlarged the choir area and added new tables and other improvements to the kitchen.

A steeple was added to the church through the generosity of the late Mr. Edwin Brown.

Allens Church went on part-time with the Carnesville Church July 1, 1958, as half-time church station.

Allens Church has been fortunate in having fine able preachers down through the years. Seventy-Three men have served as pastors of Allens. And to each of these consecrated men we are indebted for their leadership and contributions that each has given to the church through their ministry and labors with the members. Rev. R. G. Corley is the present pastor.

We have a progressive Sunday School and a live membership, and one we are truly proud of our heritage, and thankful unto God for all the persons who have helped to give us such Church History.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

Mrs. Florrie Ramey
Miss Jewell LeCroy
Mrs. C. A. Adams
Mr. George Crenshaw