A HISTORY OF
ANTIOCH CHURCH

BROCKTON CHARGE OF THE
GAINESVILLE DISTRICT
NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE
A HISTORY OF ANTIOCH METHODIST CHURCH

According to the Holy Bible, Christians were first called "Christians" at Antioch. This church prizes its name very highly, because of this fact. It also boasts of the fact that it is one of the oldest churches in North Georgia.

From all the available information it is generally thought that the present Antioch church was established some time during the year 1814 A.D. Its first name was Dunagan's Chapple and was located near where the Chestatee river flows into the Chattahoochee in the Fork Malitia District of Hall County, approximately ten miles Southwest of Gainesville, Georgia.

The first church building was a very small log house with only the ground for a floor. History does not record how many original members there were nor any of their names. It is not known how long the church remained there, however in the course of years it was moved to the present location, six miles West of Gainesville, on the old Dahlonega road and the name changed to Antioch.

The first place of worship on the new site was only a brush arbor or shady bower at the west end of the present cemetery. The record fails to give the name or names of the person or persons donating the land on which the new church was to be built, neither was there any property deeds made. It is however remembered, that in time the members of the church donating their time erected, a new log church building with a wooden floor and split logs on pegs for seats. It is estimated that the log structure was used until approximately the year of 1846, when the present building was erected.
Very few additions have been made to the building during the past century however it has been kept in good repair and in recent years has been electrically lighted. The church property includes approximately seven acres of wood land and a spacious well kept cemetery.

The property deeds are recorded with the clerk of the Superior Court of Hall County. They are kept by Brother James R. Mason who is now ninety-two years old and is chairman of the Board of Trustees and still very active in Sunday School and Church work.

Shortly after the beginning of the present century, Antioch, as a rural or country church was noted for the large number of young people that attended church and Sunday school there. During one of the years of this era twelve young couples all members of Antioch Sunday School were joined in holy wedlock. Some of whose children and grand children now attend Sunday school and church there now. Time and space in this brief history does not permit the use of names nor personalities.

During the early years shortly after the abolitionment of slavery many of the better class of colored people attended services at both the church and the camp-ground. They very reverently sat under shade trees in the church yard and listened to the services.

During the past hundred years Antioch Church has enjoyed a very broad recognition from several North Georgia Counties, because of one of the oldest functioning Camp-Grounds still in connection with the church in the history of North Georgia Methodism. The Camp-Ground is located one mile from the church in a very picturesque geographical setting. The memories and history of camp meeting are sweet, rich, and sacred to all those who felt the very presence of God and his love as they entered upon the grounds. Many young men and women who found Jesus Christ as their Savior at this camp-ground
HAVE GONE OUT FROM THERE INTO THE MINISTRY AND OTHER FIELDS OF
SERVICE AND HAVE DONE, AND ARE DOING GREAT WORK. IT WAS AT THE
SACRED ALTAR OF ANTIOCH CAMP-GROUND THAT GOD FIRST TOUCHED THE
LIFE OF THIS WRITER AND IT IS HIS EARNEST PRAYER THAT ANTIOCH CAMP-
GROUND WILL BE PRESERVED AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP AS LONG AS TIME SHALL
LAST AND MANY OTHER PEOPLE SHALL FIND JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOR
THERE. MANY FAMOUS PREACHERS HAVE PREACHED AT THIS CAMP-GROUND
PULPIT, UNCLE NATH THOMPSON BEING THE ONE OUT-STANDING PERSON IN
THE PAST FIFTY YEARS.

ON JUNE 13, 1948, ANTIOCH HELD A CENTENNIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL
CELEBRATION AND HOME COMING DAY COMBINED. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD
BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1848 WAS PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC FOR INSPECTION.
THE RECORD BOOK FOR THE YEAR REVEALED THAT THE TOTAL OFFERING IN
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WAS APPROXIMATELY $12.00 AS COMPARED WITH $26.00
GIVEN TO THE MARCH OF DIMES IN 1951 BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. THE
PROGRAM FOR THIS DAY WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY SEVERAL OF NORTH GEORGIA'S
MOST ABLE METHODIST MINISTERS, DISCUSSING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH DURING THE PAST HUNDRED YEARS.

DURING THE PAST FIFTY YEARS ANTIOCH CHURCH HAS BEEN ON THREE
PASTORAL CHARGES. THE HALL CIRCUIT, THE FLOWERY BRANCH CHARGE AND
IS AT THE PRESENT ON THE BROOKTON CHARGE. IT HAS HOWEVER REMAINED
IN THE GAINESVILLE DISTRICT ALL THE TIME.

ANTIOCH CHURCH THOUGH BEING ONE OF THE SMALLER COUNTRY CHURCHES
WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS HAS TAKEN
IT'S PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY AND WITH THE OTHER CHURCHES. IT HAS A
VERY ACTIVE CHURCH SCHOOL AND M.Y.F. IT IS ALWAYS WELL REPRESENTED
AT EACH QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF THE CHARGE, THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE
AND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. IT'S FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES ARE SIMPLE
NEVER THE LESS MEANINGFUL AND SUCCESSFUL. THE HISTORY OF A CHURCH
Without mention of the spiritual side of it would be incomplete and would not fully serve its purpose. The altar of this church on many occasions has echoed shouting as young men and women prayed their way through from sin and destruction to eternal life and redemption. Surely some of the prayers and shouting of the good old saint echoed in heaven while their spirits watch over the activities of the church.

The good that this church has done during the past years of its existence cannot be over shadowed by all the evil forces that be.
It seems fitting to give a brief statement regarding Antioch Church in Hall county before recording a fuller account of the Campground.

Antioch Church was organized, some say, about 1812 or 1815. It is located about six miles from Gainesville, Ga., north of the Chattahoochee river on the old road to Dahlonega that leads by Bark Camp on to Leathers Ford on the Chestatee river. The present building, a second one, was dedicated in 1874 by Rev. W. A. Parks.

On March 25, 1805, Robert King, a local preacher, married Frances Tilly—where I know not. They migrated south and west and settled between the Chattahoochee and Chestatee rivers in what is now the Fork District of Hall county. King was a firm, strong, sturdy man, suited for such a life. His daughter became the first wife of Col. E. M. Johnson, the father of Methodism in Gainesville. King erected a building for public worship. It was called King's Chapel. In it he officiated till his death in 1837. The Chapel was on the James Porter place near the Chestatee river. In 1924 it was owned by Jeff Sanders and James Conner. After King's death the members of King's Chapel placed their membership at Antioch church.

Hall county was laid off in 1818. Gainesville was organized in 1821. The Methodist church there was organized in 1834. In due time it became the head of a circuit which included all the Methodist churches in Hall county. In 1861 they were: Gainesville, Pleasant Hill, Antioch, Clark's School House, Lebanon, Redwine, Wesley Chapel, and Liberty.