ANVIL BLOCK
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
75 YEARS
1898-1973

Received 1/29/74

North La. Conf. Commission on Archives
A WORD OF EXPLANATION: Our announced speaker, Mr. Bert Lanoe, was hospitalized last week with a back ailment and, therefore, could not be with us today. We hope, however, that you have enjoyed the program planned for you and that you will join us every Sunday whenever possible.

PLEASE STAY FOR LUNCH IN THE COMMUNITY HOUSE AND THE SINGING IN THE AFTERNOON. We have some special groups to bring us music this afternoon in addition to the congregational singing. Stay and sing God’s praise and glory.

OFFERING TODAY TO BENEFIT CHILDREN’S HOME. Our offering today will go to The United Methodist Children’s Home on Columbia Drive in Decatur. If you would also like to make a donation to our Parsonage Fund, simply make a notation on your check as to the amount for each cause or place your offering in one of the envelopes on the pews and mark it "Parsonage Fund." Bill Mitchell, our Church Treasurer, is also handling this fund.

THERE WILL BE NO NIGHT SERVICES AT ANVIL BLOCK TONIGHT. Mt. Zion invites everyone to their regular fourth Sunday night singing at 7:30 p.m.

The beautiful basket of flowers in our sanctuary today was placed by Mrs. Louise Snead and Mrs. Willie Starr in memory of Mrs. Hamde Snead and Mr. Harold Snead. We are grateful for these as well as the other flowers from the gardens of our members.

A huge vote of thanks goes to those who have worked so long and hard to make this day possible. The children’s program was under the direction of Mr. Jack Grant, with Mrs. Thelma Walden, Mrs. Judy Gilbert and Mrs. Betsy Cleaton assisting. The anniversary committee was composed of Mr. E. H. Bond, Mr. Talmadge Walden, Mrs. Carolyn Scarbrough, Rev. Roscoe Simpson and Dot Stanley.

(See further announcements on back page)
In the Spring of 1898 preachers Blalock and Hightower from Jonesboro converted Mr. Henry Masters and started a Revival in the school house which stood where the Anvil Block Community House now stands. Mr. Sammy Masters, father of Henry, was a Methodist preacher and helped start the Revival. Anvil Block Church was organized in May, 1898.

In July, after laying-by time that year, all the men in the community started building the church. Some of them cut the logs while others hauled them to the sawmill and on to the church, where the carpenters were working on the building. The lumber was saved for nothing by John Sprayberry. Mr. Will Hayes was the foreman of the building and others helping were John Humphreys, J. J. Kelly, Grace Partin, John Weaver, Mac Blackmon, Ed Hunt, Jim Clark, W. H. Clark, Bill Henry, the Soudens, Henry Simpson, William Henry Clark, Hayden Bond, John Clark, John Boyd and W. L. Mitchell. Mr. Henry Masters gave the land for the church.

The church building was finished and dedicated on the fourth Sunday in October, 1898. Mr. Carl Clark gave the welcome at the dedication. He was just a little boy. Rev. W. B. Costley was the preacher. He was preaching at Mt. Zion at the time and Anvil Block was put on the Mt. Zion Circuit.

Mr. Kirkes had a blacksmith shop across the road in front of the school house and there was another blacksmith shop nearby, run by Billy Clark. Capt. Clayton had a woodworking shop on the new Frank White home site and there was a Post Office on the hill where the Ray Clark home is presently located run by Mr. Henry Masters. This Post Office was named Anvil Block because of the blacksmith shops and the church got its name from that.

Rev. Sammy Masters preached the first sermon in the new building.