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Ararat - Palillo

HISTORY

OF

AVONDALE METHODIST CHURCH
The Avondale Methodist Church was organized in 1910 as the Ingleside Methodist Church. The organization meeting was held in the home of Mr. J. H. Harrison on Rockbridge Road, and in addition to Mr. Harrison, those present were Messrs. W. P. Roseberry, J. R. Boyd, J. A. Camp, W. L. Robinson, and T. B. Hollingshead. Of these charter members, only Mr. Harrison is living.

In order to get the church started, this group of men planned a tent meeting, which was held across the street from the present church building, where the high school used to be. Rev. J. W. Crenshaw was the evangelist at this meeting. The first pastor to serve this newly-organized church was Rev. L. G. Johnson. Meetings were held in the Presbyterian church building during the first year, and during the second year, when Rev. O. C. Simmons was pastor, meetings were held in the Baptist church. Rev. J. G. Dodson was the next pastor, and it was during his stay in 1912 that the church members built a church of their own. At first they bought a lot in Scottsdale, but later traded it for the one at the corner of Rockbridge Road and Stone Mountain Road, where the little church still stands. They continued to use this building until about 1930.

In the fall of 1912, Rev. C. L. Middlebrooks came to the church and served for two years. He was followed by Mr. Joe Dillard. Then came Rev. Joe Barton, who was the first of the two chaplains which this church has furnished to the armed services. During Mr. Barton's second year as pastor of the church, he was called into the Army and his term was completed by Rev. Asbury Ragsdale. The church was then served for one year by each of the following: Charlie Drake, J. W. Brinsfield, J. H. Allison, and O. H. Logan. In 1931, Rev. J. D.
Milton began his five-year term as pastor of the church. It was during his stay, in 1925, that the church was made a station and given a full-time pastor. Before it had been part of a circuit, along with Belmont, Wesley Chapel and Oak Grove.

Mr. Milton was followed by Rev. Charles A. Norton and Rev. J. T. Pendley, each of whom served a year. Then in 1928, Rev. Ralph E. Hawkins began his two-year term as pastor, and it was during his ministry that the site of the present church building was acquired. The basement was completed about 1930, and the name of the church was changed to Milton Memorial in honor of Rev. J. D. Milton. At that time, funds were not available to complete the structure, so services were held in the basement for almost ten years. During these years, the pastors were: Rev. E. D. Rudasill, O. L. Kelley, C. B. McDaniel, G. G. Ramsay, Walter Millican, and J. V. Jones.

During Rev. Millican's stay, a building fund was set up and on one Sunday in every month, even the children were urged to bring their nickels and dimes in an offering which would eventually be used to put a top on the basement. Rev. J. V. Jones pushed this idea until the present auditorium was built in 1939, even though the indebtedness was not cleared until eight years later. The year after the church was built (7-2140) the name was changed to Avondale Methodist Church. Mr. Jones was responsible for the beginning of a fund to purchase a parsonage, though this plan was not carried out until many years later.

Beginning in 1940, Rev. L. W. McArthur served the church until he was called into service as chaplain during the second World War. His term was completed by Rev. W. S. Robison, who served until his return in 1946. This was the year the church bought a parsonage.
Rev. McArthur served this time for almost a year before he was recalled as permanent Air Force Chaplain. His term was completed by Rev. W. E. Williamson.

In 1948, Rev. P. G. Curry came to the church and served as pastor for two years. Then in 1950, Rev. H. S. Smith became pastor. During the fall of this year, the church was redecorated and provided with new pews and pulpit furniture. Since the church had never been really completed, it had never been officially dedicated, so October 15, 1950, was designated as Dedication Day.