HISTORY

OF

ROME CHARGE

Beech Creek Church
Mount Pleasant Church
Prospect Church
Silver Creek Church
HISTORY OF THE
BEECH CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
ROME, GEORGIA

January 17, 1952
The history of the land where Beech Creek Church now stands, goes back when Floyd County was Cherokee Section, according to records on file at the Floyd County Court House.

Sometime in 1838, there was a land lottery drawing of the Cherokee Section. This was done, by putting the numbers of the sections on a piece of paper and placing them in a box. Then a man would draw out of the box, and the section he drew was his.

The land where the Church now stands was drawn by Caleb McKinney in the presence of Senator Rutland. Recorded in deed book G, page 384, date of deed, November 9, 1849. Caleb McKinney sold to Daniel Harrall lot number 132, 4th District and 4th Section. In deed book G, page 385, Daniel Harrall sold to Erasmus Gay, March 18, 1851 lot number 132, 4th District and 4th Section. Recorded in deed book G, page 386, date of deed March 18, 1851, lot number 132, 4th District and 4th Section. Erasmus Gay sold to William James the above lot.

Recorded in deed book K, page 293, William James gave a part of lot number 132, 4th District and 4th Section, 4 acres of land to the Beech Creek Methodist Episcopal Church South on October 3, 1856. The trustees in trust at that time were:

Noah Cornett
Thomas Williamson
James Ewing
James Duvall
Harrison Camp
Jeise Carr
Clayborn Brown

At one time Beech Creek Church was a one room log cabin, being used as a School and Church combined, according to some older members of the Church. The old building sat just a little to the right and closer to the road than the present building.
There still stands at the back of the church, a rock grave. The Federal Soldiers tore the grave apart in search for treasures during the Civil War. Accurate records of the church are very limited, being destroyed by fire. The information has been given by older members of the church.

Beech Creek Church has had some very outstanding preachers. The great Sam Jones served his first charge here. An elderly lady told of an incident which happened during his ministry at Beech Creek Church. "Once when her mother and father were on their way to Rome from Alabama, they stopped on the side of the road and heard Sam Jones preach, while sitting in the buggy." One of the older members' mother joined the church under Sam Jones. He served about three years at Beech Creek Church doing many wonderful things.

We are still using the benches in the church, as was there at the time Sam Jones was Pastor. We also have the little pine table that was used for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. There still stands in the Lady's Sunday School room the stand that Sam Jones preached from. Beech Creek Church was very fortunate to have such a great man serve our church.

We still have on the church roll a very interesting man. He served as Sunday School Superintendent for sixteen consecutive years. He has said, "I have been there many times when I was the only person at the church." During this time they only had services on the fifth Sundays. Then they started trying to get old members back and to gain new ones. The church began to grow and around one hundred members were enrolled within a short time.
From that time forth Beech Creek Church has been progressing nicely, having gained many members, but also losing a great number.

Grover Irwin and L. F. Huckaby are two of the pastors that served during the time Beech Creek was on the Tubize and Shannon charge. W. O. McKibbon and H. Holland were District Superintendants.

The Rome Circuit was organized in 1938, of which we are now a part of. At that time it consisted of the following churches, Beech Creek, Mount Pleasant, Prospect, Mountain Springs, Central Grove and Wesley Chapel (near Cedartown). At the present time we have on the Rome Circuit, Beech Creek, Silver Creek, Prospect, Mount Pleasant and Wesley Chapel (old Dalton Rd.) The Rev. John M. Minter is pastor of Beech Creek and Silver Creek churches with Rev. W. P. Lovett serving as assistant pastor to, Wesley Chapel, Prospect and Mount Pleasant.

The following pastors have served the Rome Circuit:

J. T. Burdette 1938
R. T. Padgett 1942
Paul E. Morris 1944
Vernon Wynn 1946
H.G. Garrett 1946
J.R. Baxter 1947

The following have served as District Superintendants:

H. Holland 1938-42
W. H. LaPeake 1938-42
B. Frank Pim 1942-47
Wilk M. Jones 1947-50
Delma R. Haigood 1950

Our present pastor, Rev. John M. Minter has served since 1950. We have had one young man called to preach from this church, Robert Varnell Ozment. Rev. Ozment belongs to the Methodist Conference.

A County Wide Revival was held at Robinson Crossing in 1940 and was known as a portable camp meeting. Services were conducted under a large tent with kitchen and sleeping quarters provided in smaller tents. A large bus was used to bring people to and from the services.
Dailey radio programs were given over our local station. Virgil Eady of Emory-Oxford University was the song leader, assisted by Shockley P. Few. An orchestra of students from the University of Georgia also helped with the music. Many new converts were added to the church rolls both in the Baptist and Methodist churches. New spiritual strength was given to all Christian believers.

The following ministers have conducted revivals in recent years at Beech Creek Church: Jimmy Snead, Shockley P. Few, J. E. Smith, H. E. Kelly, C. C. Cliet, R. T. Padgett, R. V. Ozment, Roy Neal and P. M. Minter.

The people of Beech Creek Church have made many improvements during the past several months. Five Sunday School rooms have been added, along with the vestibule being changed and enlarged. A new heating system has been installed. We have placed gas heat in the main auditorium and in each of the Sunday School rooms. The church has also been underpinned and Mr. Sam McClung has set out some shubbery in front of the church. We were very fortunate to have Mr. Dan Snyder, one of our faithful members of the church give a baptismal stand.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship has been organized at Beech Creek Church. Our young people are doing a great work in the church and we hope they will continue to work, because they play such an important part in the church.

We have enrolled in our Sunday School at the present time about 105 members and we still are trying to have even more within the next few weeks.

As the year 1951 has been such a good year, we hope to make 1952 and the coming years even better at the Beech Creek Methodist Church.