HISTORY

of

BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH
In the spring of 1869 some pioneer citizens of Adamsville met in Green's School House on Garrett's Bridge Road (now Gordon Road) opposite the entrance Bolton Road, to organize a Methodist church.

Names for the church were suggested, the name Bethel was chosen. It being a Biblical name and also meaning "The house of God" which was very appropriate then and now.

Some of the charter members and families were:

Mr. C.C. Davis (Uncle Cris)
Mr. Alfred B. Davis, Sr.
Mr. Fletcher Thompson
Mr. Henry Bankston, Sr.
Mr. Clem C. Green
Mr. A.H.G. Howell
Mr. Gus Wilson
Mr. W.A. Wilson (Judge)
Mr. Slider Presnell
Mr. E.A. Donehoo
Mr. Bob Widdows
Services were held in the school house each Sunday. Mr. Fletcher Thompson was the Sunday School superintendent, and a good faithful one for years.

Uncle Cris Davis, who must have been a local preacher or exhorter, had charge of the services the Sundays the pastor was absent. We only had preaching one time a month, and was on the circuit with Lowes Chapel, Old Ezra and Mayson.

Rev. William Greene Dempsey, grandfather of our much beloved Elam F. Dempsey, was our first pastor.

Our pastors were:

- Rev. William D. Dempsey 1869-1870
- Rev. W.J. Wardlow 1870-1871
- Rev. B.J. Johnson 1871-1872
- Rev. J.W. Yarbrough 1872-1873
- Rev. L.P. Neese 1873-1875

In the spring of 1874, while Bro. Neese was pastor, a wind blew the school house down. The men of the community met and Mr. A.H.G.
Howell deeded the present property to be used for school and church purposes, going back to the estate if not used for same. The school was erected and church services again held in the school house.

Pastors were:

- Rev. L.P. Neese 1875
- Rev. O.A. Thrower 1876
- Rev. J.J. Morgan 1877-1878
- Rev. R.R. Johnson 1879
- Rev. W.R. Foote 1880
- Rev. W.W. Osolin 1880
- Rev. L.P. Neese 1881
- Rev. W.W. Osolin 1882
- Rev. Grey 1883
- Rev. Thomas G. Morgan 1883
- Rev. W.A. Dunlap 1884
- Rev. W.W. Lambkin 1885-1886
- Rev. Simeon Shaw 1887-1888
- Rev. W.T. Erwin 1889
- Rev. John Shaw 1890
- Rev. W.A. Dodge 1891
- Rev. J.M. Owen 1892-1893
- Rev. H.T. Branham 1894
- Rev. E.H. Wood 1895-1896
- Rev. J.N. Snow 1897
In 1900, the members decided to build a church house. The present auditorium was erected on the hill top where the parsonage now stands. Some members of the building committee were:

When the new church was built in 1900 (recollection is not certain as to whether the pastor was Rev. P.A. Kellet or Rev. Morgan), Bro. Kellet preached in the first revival and it was the greatest in the history of the church. Approximately 40 persons were converted and united with the church.

Mr. E.A. Donehoo was our next superintendent of the Sunday School.

Rev. Chas. Johnson (or Rev. Simeon Shaw) was the pastor in 1901-1902. Also:

Rev. W.T. Caldwell 1903-1906
Rev. Benj. Graham 1907-1909
Rev. M.L. Harris 1910
Rev. Henry Pace 1911

In 1912, Bethel began to get Supplies and Emory students:

Rev. J.H. Johnson 1912-1916
Rev. Phelix Church 1916-1917
Rev. W.H. Boring 1918-1919
Rev. R.L. Ramsey 1920
Rev. J.P. Wolford 1921-1922
Rev. Roy C. Sampley 1922
Rev. O.K. Lamb 1923
Rev. Roy Price 1923-1924
Rev. E.H. Hampton 1924
Rev. J.W. Yarbrough 1925
Rev. J.J. Blanks 1926-1933

Rev. J.J. Blanks was a God-sent man to our community. He came in February, and on Easter Sunday following we had 113 in Sunday School, 13 over the goal he had set for the attendance. He began to show the people what could and must be done.

Under his leadership the church was moved down the hill, turned to face the triangle, built the present Sunday School rooms that are adjoining the church auditorium and the entire structure brick veneered. A central heating plant was installed and kerosene lamps were replaced by electric lights.

Not only was Bro. Blanks a man of ability to revive churches but also a man of spiritual power, and believed in a salvation that saved and sanctified, making men pure and holy in God's sight.
Revivals were held twice a year. Such evangelists as Bro. Charlie M. Dunaway, Bro. Sam M. Hanes, Bro. Claude Hendricks and many others conducted the services. Evangelists singers came, among them were Rev. Grady Mangum, Sr. and Hugh Timms.

The following men were called to preach from Bethel under the ministry of Rev. J.J. Blanks: Rev. Happy White and Rev. Walter Jackson were called as Baptist preachers; Rev. R.E. Llorens and Rev. J.D. Booth becoming preachers in the Methodist Church.

The memory of Bro. Blanks is cherished by all at Bethel. God give us more men who are fearless and bold, true witnesses for Christ—hungry to see lost men and women come to Christ, repent, forsake, believe and accept him as their personal Saviour. Bethel also became a station under his leadership. He was the pastor eight years. His building committee was:

Lt. J.M. Carroll, chairman
J.M. Lee (Jack), vice chairman
S.H.A. Howell, sec. and treas.
J.E. Heath, Sr.
Mrs. J.J. Waits
Mrs. G.R. Lee, Sr.
Claude E. Moon
The Trustees were:

Lt. J.M. Carroll  
M.L. Carroll  
J.E. Heath, Sr.  
J.J. Waits  
Mrs. H.P. Fain  
S.H.A. Howell  
H.G. Waters

The Stewards were:

J.T. Zuker, chairman  
J.E. Heath, Sr.  
J.J. Waits  
R.D. Waits  
Mrs. C.E. Wade  
M.F. Carroll  
Pauline Carroll  
J.H. Jones

Also at this time the church yards were improved. Mrs. H.P. Fain was credited to a large extent for the placing of the shrubbery around the church.

Following Bro. Blanks ministry, the pastors were:

Rev. L.F. Van Landingham 1933-1935  
Rev. H.E. Smith 1935-1936
Rev. J.B. Cochran, whom we all loved, came to us at a time when we needed help and encouragement. He is a true man of God, filled with the Spirit, hungry for souls to accept Christ as their personal Saviour. Earnest efforts were put forth during his ministry at Bethel. We had revival meetings twice each year. One of the most outstanding revivals was sponsored by the young people. Rev. Bob Witty from Jacksonville, Florida, was the evangelist. Some of our young people were saved then still are faithful to the call of Christ, teaching and working in our church and Sunday School.

It was he who saw the need of a parsonage, and under his leadership it was built.

His building committee was:

H.G. Waters
Dr. T.D. Guffin
J.T. Zuker

The Trustees were:

W.A. Fain
Also while Bro. Cochran was at Bethel, the auditorium was renovated and ceiling fans were installed.

Rev. Guy Hutcherson and Rev. B.C. Barrett are two more servants of God whom the people of Bethel cherish. Under the leadership of Bro. Barrett, the Sunday School annex was erected.

During Rev. Clyde Smith's pastorate, new pews and chancel were placed in the church auditorium. Also the floors were covered with asphalt tile.

In June, 1951, Rev. George H. Stone came to Bethel. In less than a year after his arrival the final note on the parsonage loan was paid, and on June 8, we had open house with Rev. C.B. Cochran dedicating the parsonage. The note was burned by Jack L. Zuker.

Rev. George H. Stone, who is the present pastor, is loved by all. He sees the need of a Sunday School building. He has a building committee of twenty-six, with Mrs. Marion Rivers chairman, Mrs. Lucile Sargent, secretary and Mr. E.H. Harper, treasurer.
Some of the superintendents other than the ones mentioned were:

Mrs. Bob Widdows
Mr. H.B. Bankston
Mr. S.H.A. Howell
Mr. S.B. Larimore
Mr. Parks A. Carroll
Mrs. A.M. Moon
Mr. J.J. Waits
Mr. F.E. Hamilton
Mrs. F.E. Hamilton
Mrs. Thelma Harclerode
Miss Susan Baird
Mrs. Marion Rivers
Mr. C.I. Brown

The first Missionary Society was organized in 1928. Mrs. G.H. Lee, Sr. was president until 1933 and worked faithfully with the ladies of the church. Mrs. A.W. Baker was elected president and served for one year, at which time Mrs. G.H. Lee, Sr., was elected again and served until 1946. Under her leadership the parsonage was furnished, the Wesleyan Service Guild organized and much done for the advancement of the kingdom. She was a faithful president for eighteen years. Mrs. Pauline Carroll Boggs served from 1946 until 1951. The membership and attendance doubled during that time. The Lord blessed each one
spiritually and financially. Mrs. W.A. Fain was elected in 1951 and is still president. God has surely used the ladies of Bethel church.

Bethel church raised approximately $11,000.00 in 1952. The church is valued at $40,000.00.

Bethel has a membership of 400.

This history came from the oldest members of our church and was compiled by:

Mrs. Pauline Carroll Boggs
### Bethel Methodist Church

3461 Gordon Rd., S.W.
Atlanta, Ga.

#### Presiding Elders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.J. Bigham</td>
<td>1900-1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles E. Dowman</td>
<td>1902-1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.H. Eakes</td>
<td>1904-1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joel T. Daves</td>
<td>1907-1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.P. Lovejoy</td>
<td>1911-1913</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.M. Hughlett</td>
<td>1914-1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.H. La Prade, Jr.</td>
<td>1916-1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.H. Eakes</td>
<td>1920-1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.T. Hunnicutt</td>
<td>1923-1926</td>
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<tr>
<td>John S. Jenkins</td>
<td>1927-1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>R.L. Russell</td>
<td>1931-1934</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lester Rumble</td>
<td>1935-1936</td>
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<td>Charles C. Jarrell</td>
<td>1936-1937</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.G. Henry, Sr.</td>
<td>1938-1939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wallace Rogers</td>
<td>1940-1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lester Rumble</td>
<td>1946-1950</td>
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<td>J.W.O. McKibben</td>
<td>1951-</td>
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