Bethel Methodist Church

Bethel Methodist Church located at Hemp, Fannin County, Georgia in the North Georgia District Conference which was organized in the year of 1846.

The land was deeded to the church by Mr. James Garrett March 7, 1846. The trustees at that time were; Joseph Huckabee, Young Abercrumbee, Laton Legg, Thomas Hughes, William Thomas, Tillman Cox, Jacob Weaver, George Wise and James Abercrumbee.

Bethel Church is old but still growing. For 104 years this church has stood for everything that contributes to the good of the country and our neighbors.

Bethel pulpit has been served by several of the conference's most able ministers, some of which are deceased and some still living. The mountain churches have often been referred to as the proving ground for young men starting in their calling to do God's work.

The first building was built of logs; a few years later this log structure was replaced by a more modern type of lumber which had to be repaired from time to time. The members saw the need of a new building with Sunday school rooms due to the increasing membership and increasing citizens of the community.

In 1941 a building committee was appointed to raise funds for this proposed new church. Due to World War II, materials and labor were very hard to secure; therefore, the members decided to invest this fund into U. S. war bonds until a later date when material could be purchased and the building started.

In August 1945 the new building was started on the basis of, "Pay as you Build". In 1948 a new brick building with three Sunday school rooms was completed which was free of debt. This church costs approximately $6,000.00 which everyone feels is a great asset to any rural community. Dedication services were held by Rev. Peter Manning D. S. on September 11, 1949. A large crowd attended this dedication, several of which were visiting members from our Sister Churches.

We the members of Bethel Methodist Church are very proud of the new building and sincerely appreciated the cooperation of all who helped in making this project a success.

Mrs. Luther Cobb
Bethel Methodist Church
Former Pastors of Bethel Methodist Church

1876-77, Rev. W. H. Green
1872, J. C. Atkinson
1877-8, J. C. Hughes
1901, John W. Merrick
1902-4, Joseph W. Watts
1905, Rev. J. H. Jay
1906-8, J. C. Hughes
1908-12, H. A. Winstead

In 1912, the Church was put on the Blue Ridge Circuit, which included Blue Ridge, a half-station, Morganton and Bethel. Churches up until this date were included in a circuit with Confidence, Dillard’s Chapel, Gaddis’s Church and other churches in Union County.

1912, Rev. Geo. B. Frazier
1913, J. S. Kainer
1914, J. H. Bailey
1915, V. L. Bray
1916, J. M. Lee
1917-19, J. N. Cough
1919-21, Rev. J. C. Burton
1921-23, H. C. Holland Sr.
1922-23, G. W. Davis
1924-25, V. J. Taylor
1926-27, C. M. Verell
1928-32, H. H. Dillard
1932-34, R. H. Timbelake
1935-37, H. A. McNeal
1936-37, Charles B. Allen
1939, J. B. Black
1940, Kenneth Brown
1941-42, James H. Carter
1942-44, M. B. Suga
1943-44, Michael Michiel
1946, Newton Dickens

From the Blue Ridge Circuit Bethel was transferred to the Ellijay-Morganton Circuit and now is in the Morganton Circuit. Also has been in the Dalton Dist., Marietta Dist. at present in the Dalton Dist.
1946. Rev. Roy McCoy
1946-47. Ted Griner
1948. John S. Cook
1949-present. Rev. Claude Patterson

Presiding Elders or District Superintendents:

1802. Rev. S. B. Ladbetter
1904-8. J. F. Christians Christian
1909-12. W. W. Dillard
1912-16. W. H. Cooper
1917-21. John P. Erwin
1922-26. S. B. England
1926-28. N. H. Jones
1928-32. Nath Thompson
1932-34. Marvin Williams
1935-38. Willis M. Jones
1939-42. Augusta Earnest
1943-47. E. Thailkett
1944-48. C. M. Lipham
1949-present. D. S. Peter Manning

We have had Sunday School for as far back as the present members can remember. Our Sunday School is doing a good work including regular donations to the Orphans Home.

The Women's Society of Christian Service was organized in November 1949 with 5 members present. Present membership:

1. Doing a progressive work, also contributed considerably regularly to the Ethel Harpest Home.

Bethel Church prides itself on being a point of light in the community by fulfilling her obligations in full.

Mrs. Luther Cobb
Church Historian
These are pastors who served years ago but I can't find the dates:

Rev. A. C. Cantrell
Rev. — Warlick
Rev. — Bird
Rev. — Honeycutt

The Rev. James Sullivan of Union County Ga. was licensed to preach in the year 1856. He served Ellijay, Jasper, and Waleska Circuits, also Spring Place.

He traveled through Union, Towns and Gilmer County Ga., Clay County N. C. and Polk County Tenn. This was before Fannin County was created from Union and Gilmer Counties.

Brother Sullivan traveled on horseback over this mountain section six days a week preaching in the Churches already established and organizing new Churches in places where there was no Churches.