HISTORY
of
BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH
History of Bethel Methodist Church
Wood Station, S.C. - Delton District

The year the first Methodist Church was built is not known, but it was long before the War between the States. An acre of land was donated by a citizen known as Mr. Ramsey. The one-room log building had a puncheon floor and slate benches. This church was named Bethel Methodist Church and the present church still bears the same name. Very little is known about the pastors of this church, but it was served for years by the Rev. Leak.

About the year 1870 the sandy bottom of the valley burned and forced the construction of a frame building about 24' x 40'. This was erected about fifty feet south of the log room.


In the year 1909 during the pastorate of Alonsoing, a frame structure was erected about 75 ft. south of the first frame building. The building was about 36' x 50', it cost approximately $500.
The pastors who served the church to the fall of 1932 were as follows: M. A. Parsons, Rev. Rogers, M. L. Harris, J. H. Little, R. L. Clisby, W. J. Johnston, H. S. Hill, R. N. Bland, Avery Smith, J. H. Leach, M. B. Smalls, J. L. Hall and Rev. Woodruff.

Bethel Church is in the North Georgia conference and was for years on the Ringgold circuit with the following churches: Ringgold, Lepton, and Newnan Springs, each being served one Sunday a month.

When conference met in 1932, Newnan Springs was made a half-time church to be served by the preacher on Ringgold circuit. Bethel was taken off Ringgold circuit and added to Tunnel Hill. Shortly after this reorganization, the Rev. McDermid died, and his unexpired term was filled by Rev. E. F. Nickaby.

The other pastors who served Bethel from Tunnel Hill were J. B. Brown and A. L. Ulms. At conference about 1937 Newnan Springs was made a full-time church and Bethel was returned to the Ringgold circuit. The pastors who served Bethel from that circuit until the fall of 1942 were J. L. Hendricks, M. M. Brackman.
and A. L. Sisson.

When Conference was in 1943, Springdale asked to be made a full-time church. Brynville, a Georgia Station formerly in the Tennessee Valley Conference, was turned to Bethel, both being half-time churches, Rev. Paul Stone served these churches.

When Conference met in 1944, Bethel asked to be put on full time.

In the year 1947, a brick limestone church was erected one mile north of the frame structure. The approximate cost of the building was $20,000, including free labor. It is 30' x 56'.

The church has a sanctuary (upstairs), there are five Sunday School rooms and a furnace room and an auditorium in the basement. The church was built under the pastorate of Rev. J. P. Stone who gave generously of his time and money to the building of the Church. Rev. Stone served Bethel Church from 1941 to 1950.

The present pastor at Bethel Church is Rev. Ray Robinson.

Bethel has a membership of 123.

About the year 1934, the leading of the church thought it would be a fine thing to set a date
to be used each year for a community reunion for the members and friends of the Bethel Church to be held at the church. The date decided on was the Sunday after the annual cleaning of the cemetery. The meeting was to be called the 'Homecoming'. The first gathering was in August 1935 and they have been held each year since.