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1972 Dalton Dist

HISTORY
of
BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

History of -

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Bethel Methodist Church Wood Station, Ga. - Dalton 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 slab 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. Leek.

About the year 1870 the men of the valley hewed by hand the material for a frame building about 24' x 40'. This was erected about fifty feet south of the log room.

The pastors who served Bethel Church in this building are as follows: J. L. Richardson, W. L. Wooten, Ely Smith, J. O. A. Hickman, D. B. Whitfield, W. L. Harrison, Clayton Quillan, J. W. Lober, H. M. Smith, A. L. Ware, J. R. Jones, L. M. Elliott and J. H. Bailey.

In the year 1909 during the pastorate of Alongo Sprayberry a frame structure was erected about 75 ft. south of the first frame building. The building was about 36' x 50', It cost approximately \$2,500.

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The pastors who served the church to the fall of 1932 were as follows: M. A. Parson, Rev. Roper, M. L. Harris, J. H. Little, R. A. Clifton, D. P. Johnston, H. S. Hill, R. E. Rutland, Henry Smith, J. H. Couch, M. B. Sams, 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, Dayton, 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. McQuinn died, and his unexpired term was filled by Leine F. Nuckaby.

The other pastors who served Bethel from Tunnel Hill were J. K. Brown and A. S. Ullm. 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 G. L. Hendricks, M. M. Brackman,

and H. Z. Lawhorn.

When conference ^{met} in 1942 Ringgold asked to be made a full-time church. Grayville, a Georgia Station formerly in the Tennessee Holston Conference, was teamed with 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 blue 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. L. 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 Dodson.

Bethel has a membership of ~~122~~ 123.

About the year 1934 the leaders 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 "Home Coming". The first gathering was in August 1935, and they have been held each year since.