HISTORY OF BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH FROM ORIGIN TO 1951.

In the days just prior to the War Between the States people from Fairview community had to travel some eight or ten miles in buggy to Stockbridge to attend worship services. Due to the great distance and poor roads with such means of transportation, John Austin conceived of the idea of building a brush arbor in the community and having Sunday School and prayer meetings in the local community. Out of this arbor Bethel Church came into being.

John A. Callaway granted lands to trustees to construct a church building to be called Bethel Methodist Church in the year just as the North and South were preparing to have war. The men were called to the colors and the church was not immediately built. However, upon their return, the church was built around 1870. This building now stands and is still used to hold worship services, although Church School rooms have been added.

The first trustees of Bethel Methodist Church were John Austin, Fritchett, Martin, Patillo.

Following are some of the men who have served Bethel Church as pastors: Robert Todd, J. M. Sewell, M. B. Sams, W. O. Butler, T. R. Kendall, F. R. Seaborn, W. P. Carmichael, W. A. Wells, J. S. Thrailkill, J. R. Brendall, M. M. Maxwell, D. B. Cantrell, J. L. Harrison,

IN the year 1944, Bethel was taken from the Stockbridge charge and placed with Mt. Zion, Anvil Block, and Ellenwood to form the Ellenwood Charge.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED BETHEL CHURCH SINCE 1940.


STEWARDS OF BETHEL CHURCH SINCE 1940.


WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE PRESIDENTS.
A Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized in 1948 while T. E. Fowler was pastor with Mrs. James Cates as President. She has continued to be president to the present time (1951).

PRESIDENTS OF YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.
A Youth Fellowship was organized in 1950 while F. E. Jenkins, Jr., was pastor with Marie Thurman as president and she is now heading the organization (1951).

DIRECTORS OF GOLDEN CROSS.
1945: Mrs. T. W. Peterman. 1946 through 1951: W. Glenn Thurman.

COMMUNION STEWARDS.

CHURCH TREASURER.
Mr. Ed Cowan has been church treasurer since that office was created in Bethel Church in the year 1945.
TRUSTEES OF CHURCH PROPERTY FOR BETHEL CHURCH SINCE 1940.