History of Bethel Methodist Church

The church was probably organized and came into being soon after the early settlers came in the valley of Dirttown. They began coming soon after the land was open for white settlers.

It is not quite known just where the group first met for worship but it seems that at one time they used a log building not many yards from where the present church now stands. The title of the present site was not secured until 1876 and this I give in full detail.

The title of the track of land on which Bethel Church now stands was given and established by the following parties in part.

State of Georgia - Chattooga County. Entered the ninth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

Between Noah Hays of one part of the county and state aforesaid and Thomas R. Morton, O. T. Perry, A. P. Millican, Green Black and William Gore of the other part of the said county and state.

Above mentioned trustees for the Methodist Church that said Noah Hays pays for and in consideration of one and a quarter acre of land upon which the old Bethel Church stood has given two acres of land from lot no. 239 upon which new Bethel now stands and the present church now stands just south of the first building on this plot of land.

The church of today was erected in the year 1933. Some donations were made and a few acres of cotton was grown in the year 1932. This was put in the funds and we were able to erect the building and have services. Other work has been done in past years. Most of the work was done as a free will
gift by members and many others for which we are grateful.

We find in records of a class book of which we get our first dates in the year 1856 Bethel Church is listed as being on Subligna charge and has 33 male members - 36 female members - 24 colored members with James M. Hamilton as L. E. and C. S. We take note that on Friday before quarterly meeting they reverenced as a day of Fasting and Prayer.

The first of this we have of the year 1861 with John W. Glenn, Presiding Elder and Jas. D. Anthong, Pastor, in charge.

From the 1870 we can give names of the Presiding Elder and Pastors from a church register which is kept by a member of the church.

There have been many to join the church on profession of faith and the one who is listed as first is Mr. W. W. Shropshire, who became a member in 1888 and has through these years kept his membership at Bethel.

We feel that Bethel Methodist Church has contributed, along with her sister churches of the valley, much in the spiritual life of many who have passed away. Some lived here and others moved on, but the church has been making progress.

We can only name one who has gone into the ministry from Bethel. He is Rev. Charles C. Hendrix, son of the late W. D. Hendrix and Mrs. Steela Hendrix.

There is still the sense of the old days when we go out to the old country church to worship, and to many it is still very dear for the thoughts and hearts of mankind. We lifted up to a Supreme Being; One who cares and is worthy of our love.