Bethel

Bethel Methodist Church is located in Arkaquah District, Union County. It was listed in the minutes of the first Quarterly Conference to be held in the county (as far as records can be found), but it seems to have just been an organization without a building. Early services probably in the decade of 1840 were held in Track Rock school and the church was organized. Also in this same section was the Arkaquah Methodist Church. Very little is known about this. The Chestoe Camp Ground was only about one mile from Bethel, was the chief source of revivals.

Some time before 1900 the old Arkaquah church had closed. If Bethel had a building, other than the Track Rock School, the oldest members can not remember. But in 1900-01, what members were left from the old Arkaquah church and the loosely organized Bethel Church, under the leadership of John Ellis, were organized into Bethel Church. The present building was erected at this time. In 1948 it was repaired and painted.

Bethel has always been a church serving a small community. The membership has always been under 50. The people of this community are of the old solid mountaineer stock, holding to the old mountain customs and traditions. Thus the church has always been very local in service and outlook, holding to the old traditional views of the worship service, using the very old hymns, even though all around them the people have gone in strong for the "Singing Convention" songs, etc.

In their own way they are good people, tending to their own business and letting the rest of the world go its own way. Thus many customs, that come too to understand and appreciate better
can be found in this church and community that can be found nowhere else.