

*Little River Chgo*

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*1972 Augusta Dist*

# SKETCH OF BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

Bethel, on Little River Circuit in Wilkes County, is located about six miles West from Washington.

The first records of the church date back to 1839, but it is known there was a church earlier than that. There are no records of this earlier church, which was a small log building on the Skull Shoals Road about one mile from the present location. The Rev. George Wright was an early pastor of this first church and some of the members were Jesse Chafin, Joseph B Corer, Mrs Jane Rorie, Mrs. Sara Lynn, Nathan Lyon and George B Smith.

The lot on which the present church now stands was deeded in 1849 by William L Edmundson and Sara Lynn "to be used as a place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South" to the trustees at that time who were: Nathan Lyon, George B. Smith, Joseph B Corer and Jesse Chafin. Two or three church buildings have been erected on the present lot, the first in 1849-50, the present one in 1914-15.

Two ministers and one missionary have gone from Bethel; Miss Bertha Tucker, Missionary to Korea and later to Cuba was a member of this Church and the Rev. J E Rorie and Rev. T O Rorie were members of Bethel.

The present building is a white wooden structure with lovely woodwork, comfortable pews and is nicely furnished and beautifully kept. It is made up of faithful members who carry on the work of the Master and find joy in the work.

The membership is 167; Sunday School enrollment 74

WSCS membership 21. Value of church property \$ 10,000.

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