Bethel United Methodist Church, located on the Scull Shoals Road in Wilkes County, seven miles from Washington, was founded in the days of the great Methodist expansion of the 1800's. The first Bethel Church was about a mile from the present location, and was built by the early farmers as a place of worship and as a school house for their children. There are records of slave members as early as 1838. Some of the early pastors were Rev. George Wright, Thomas Benning, Josiah Lewis, and A. J. Orr.

In 1849 the lot on which Bethel Church now stands was deeded by William L. Edmundson and Sara Davis Lynn to the “Trustees in Trust.” On this land a white frame building with large windows and green blinds and a seating capacity of 300 was erected to serve the growing congregation.

In 1912 plans were discussed for building again and during the ministry of Rev. J. R. Speer a building committee was appointed and work was begun on the present church building. On July 23, 1916, the church was dedicated to the service and glory of God.

In 1959, under the leadership of Rev. Olin Herndon, an annex was added to the rear of the Church which provided four classrooms and a fellowship hall. This was dedicated on Oct. 15, 1961.

Today the congregation has a beautiful church. From the vestibule one enters and arched doorway to the sanctuary which seats 300. The beautiful stained glass windows cast a soft glow over its white walls, and oak pews and pulpit furniture.

Bethel United Methodist Church has 125 members at present and under the leadership of Rev. Charles Robinson, it continues to grow in love to the service and glory of God.