

1972 LaGrange West

195

Bethel

~~Long Cane Church~~  
West Point Circuit

West Pt Ct

The territory of which Troup County forms a part was acquired by the United States February 12th, 1825, through treaty with the Creek Indians, and following this acquisition the first settlers of Troup County established homes, and with the establishment of these first homes - the establishment of the first Churches. Alford's Church (Bethel) was established in 1835

From records of the Alford family, it is possible to establish the fact that Bethel Church is among the oldest Churches, if not the oldest, of the West Point Circuit. Captain Lodwick C. Alford came to Troup County in 1829, established his home in sight of the Bethel Church location, donated land for a Church, and was one of the founders - and active leaders - until his death - April 30, 1854, at the age of 76 years. The original Church, on this site, was called Alford's Church, and the building was of log construction. In later years the old Alford home site was sold to Rev. Cal Davidson, and he is said to have given this Church site. The Church records were lost, and this loss has caused repeated donations of the Church property - as the surrounding lands changed ownership.

In the beginning - 1835 - Alford's Chapel was established; in later years this little log Church was replaced by another building more adequate, but there is no record as to date. In the meantime - with no record of date - the name of the Church had been changed, and through this change of names, Bethel, as we know and love it, came into being.

Bethel Church, as of the present, was erected in 1906. When this Church was built, the timbers of the former building went into the construction of "New Harmony", a Methodist Church for negroes.

Bethel has been the symbol of the Christian's Faith in our midst for more than a century - built in less than a decade after the territory was acquired from the Creek Indians.

From Church records available the following members are donators of the Church property - the land, or site of the Church:

Rev. Cal Davidson,  
Mr. L. T. C. Lovelace,  
Mr. W. F. Hogg.

In 1933, the women of Bethel Church organized a Circle to take care of certain needs; This organization was known as "Willing Workers Circle", with Mrs. T. W. Taylor, President, and Mrs. Alton Ward, V. P. This Circle attended only to local needs of the Church.

In 1940 the "Willing Workers Circle" broadened its scope of activities, changed its identification, and became "Womans Society of Christian Service" affiliating with all Methodist Church women

Within the past year - under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. H. L. Gurley, and the present Stewards - four Sundayschool rooms have been added to Bethel. This was made possible through diligent work of the Church membership, and numberless donations - graciously given. These school rooms had long been sorely needed. Bethel now has regular attendance at Sundayschool - about fifty-five pupils each Sunday - with an enrollment of eighty-five. "Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me" -

Bethel - The house of God! A blessing to the community at large - a retreat and shelter to all who need comfort - "Seek and Ye shall find"; built to satisfy the need of pioneers, and continuous as God's given sunshine to meet the same need of posterity.

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*Mrs J W Ward*

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*Mrs J B Bennett*

This Data found in Library in Emory University:

	PASTOR	P. ELDER.
1854	Willie D. Mathews	J. C. Simmons
1855	" " "	Samuel Anthony.
1856	W. A. Florence	" "
1857	" "	" "
1858	Lewis L. Ledbetter	William H. Evans
1859	Joseph J. Singleton	" " "
1860	Edmund P. Burch	J. Blakely Smith
1861	" " "	" "
1862	Thomas J. Embry	" "
1863	" "	" "
1864	Robert H. Jones	John D. McGehee
1865	" "	" "
1866	P. M. Ryburn	" "
1867	" "	Lewis J. Davies
1868	A. M. Thigphen	" "
1869	" " "	" "
1870	Edmund P. Burch	" "
1871	" " "	Habersham J. Adams
1872	T. H. Timmons	" "
1873	Henry J. Ellis	" "
1874	" " "	" "
1875	J. R. Morgan	J. W. Heidt
1876	J. S. Bryan	" "
1877	J. W. Lee	" "
1878	" "	" "
1879	J. C. Davidson	W. H. Potter
1880	J. M. Lowery	" " "
1881	J. M. Lowery	W. F. Cook
1882	" " "	W. H. LaPrade
1883	J. T. Richardson	" " "
1884	" " "	" " "
1885	W. T. Smith	J. F. Mixon
1886	" " "	" " "
1887	W. J. Carter	T. F. Pierce
1888	F. D. Cantrell	" " "
1889	" " "	W. F. Cook
1890	E. C. Marks	# " "
1891	J. S. Embry	" " "
1892	" " "	" " "
1893	W. H. Spier	J. F. Mixon
1894	" " "	J. P. Gibson
1895	" " "	" " "
1896	P. S. Edwards	T. R. Kendall
1897	" " "	W. R. Foot
1898	W " "	" " "
1899	J. A. Sewell	J. W. Quillian
1900	" " "	M. J. Cofer
1901	W. A. Farris	" " "
1902	W. O. Butler	Beverly P. Allen
1903	W. C. Fox	" "
1904	" " "	" "
1905	" " "	" "

1906	W. W. Gaines	J. B. Robbins
1907	" " "	J. W. Quillian
1908	F. R. Smith	J/ W. Quillian
1909	" " "	" " "
1910	L. L. Landrum	W. P. Lovejoy
1911	" " "	W. L. Pierce
1912	W. W. Watkins	" " "
1913	" " "	" " "
1914	W. J. Culpepper	" " "
1915	<del>B. L.</del> L. Betts	B. P. Allen
1916	" " "	" " "
1917	A. M. Sprayberry	" " "
1918	G. P. Sorrells	R. C. Cleckler
1919	" " "	" " "
1920	J. E. S tapham	" " "
1921	J. P. Wolford	" " "
1922	" " "	Wallace Rogers
1923	" " "	" " "
1924	(Wolford died on charge, Z. C. Hayes App.)	" " "

From Church records:

1925	Z. C. Hayes, Jr	W. H. LaPrade
1926	L. G. Cowart	" " "
1927	" " "	" " "
1928	Z. V. Hawkes	W. M. Barnett
1929	Z. V. Hawkes	" " Barnett
1930	W. A. Woodruff	" " "
1931	" " "	" " "
1932	William Greenway	Irby Henderson
1933	" " "	" " "
1934	" " "	" " "
1935	" " "	" " "
1936	O. J. Withrow	Augustus Earnest
1937	Harvey A. King	" " "
1938	" " "	J. W. Veath
1939	" " "	George L. King
1940	" " "	" " "
1941	G. A. Lively	W. "M. Twigg"
1942	" " "	" " "
1943	" " "	W. M, Twiggs
1944	" " "	" " "
1945	" " "	" " "
1946	" " "	" " "
1947	B. N. McHan	Thrailkill
1948	H. L. Gurley	" " "
1949	H. L. Gurley	JWS Thrailkill
1950	H. L. Gurley	" " "