

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH

1928--1951

1912 La Grange Dist - Woodbury Ch

Bethesda Church was organized in the year 1828 not far from the town of Raleigh near Cane Creek. Some years later it was moved to the present site on the Clark Howell Highway between Woodbury and Manchester. The two acres of ground were purchased from a Mr. Andrew Pless.

Building materials not being available at that time a brush arbor was used for worship services for sometime before the first wooden building was erected. No record is available from time the Church was founded until after the War Between the States, except that which has been handed down by word of mouth.

The ministers would preach to the white congregation in the morning and colored people in the afternoon. During that time there were three local preachers who served as pastors most of the time. These were Rev. Johnny Bowden, Rev. Thomas Maddox, and Rev. Jim Willis. Many class meetings were held and Love Feasts were observed, and the Holy Spirit was made manifest. Souls were saved and the church grew in numbers.

In the year 1882 one more acre of land was purchased from Mrs. Mary Crain Threadgill to enlarge the cemetery. A few well loved negro slaves are buried in the upper part of this cemetery.

At the present time this Church is completing a building program consisting of a new chapel and converting the old one into Sunday School rooms. With the splendid cooperation of all our people and the help of our good friends and neighbors our expansion program is going forward. With the help of the Lord Bethesda will go forward to do even greater works for Him in the future than it has in the past.

## PREACHERS WHO HAVE SERVED BETHESDA SINCE THE YEAR 1865

Rev. J. V. M. Morris  
Rev. S. D. Clements  
Rev. E. H. Wood  
Rev. Jesse Warlick  
Rev. L. H. Green  
Rev. A. S. Harris  
Rev. W. E. Tarpley  
Rev. W. C. Fox  
Rev. E. A. Ware  
Rev. T. P. Graham  
Rev. J. H. Little  
Rev. W. R. Mackay  
Rev. J. L. Ware  
Rev. G. L. Chastain  
Rev. I. W. Keithley  
Rev. W. A. Harris  
Rev. W. J. Culpepper  
Rev. J. C. Adkinson

Rev. J. F. Roberts  
Rev. W. R. England  
Rev. J. A. Griffies  
Rev. J. B. Gresham  
Rev. J. W. Lee  
Rev. F. I. Green  
Rev. V. F. Taylor  
Rev. G. L. Chastain  
Rev. H. G. Zoller  
Rev. T. M. Dye Jr.  
Rev. H. B. Varner  
Rev. E. P. Kendall  
Rev. Felix Sutphin  
Rev. Leon Smith  
Rev. R. W. Green Jr.  
Rev. R. E. Hanson  
Rev. J. U. Little

Rev. W. S. Cruise