HISTORY
of
BREMEN CHARGE

Bethlehem Church
District Line Church
History of the Bethlehem Methodist Church

The Bethlehem Methodist Church of the Bremen Circuit was first known as Holland. Mr. Talton Holland giving the land for the Church. Afterwards the name was changed to Bethlehem.

The exact date of the organization of this church is not known. It is believed however, that services began about 1830. The first services were held under a brust-arbor. The first building was constructed of Logs. It was one room with wooden window shutters. The second church was constructed of wood, a cottage fashion. The third building was a bungalow type. As the attendance increased a wing was added. We worshipped in this building until 1943. Then we erected a brick church and we are now worshipping in this building at this time. We value the church at $8,000.00. A few years later we build a basement for Sunday School and other purposes. The expense of the Basement was $4,000.00.

During the early times the church was visited with great revivals, one of the greatest was in the year 1856.

We have no record of the first Superintendent. But one of the greatest was John H. Shelnutt. He gave 44 years of his service. He passed away a few years ago.

Our first pastor that we have any record of was Rev. Talton Holland. He served the church as long as he lived. Our Church has many great and good pastors whose names we are not able to recall. To them we owe a debt that we shall never be able to pay. Many great revivals have come to our church through the gospel preaching of our Pastors and their Laymen.

Our church has always believed that we have had services for over 100 years. And we feel we are making progress every year, for this we praise God.

We have given the world three preachers. Two in 1800, Rev. Linsey and Rev. Talton Holland, both men were great. And in the year 1951 Rev. Leroy Smith. We feel sure he will be a great success.

In the year 1939 our church went to half time. In the year 1950 we went to three fourths time. We trust that it will not be long until we can have full time.

In the year 1950 the church build a beautiful six room parsonage at the cost of $8,000.00.

As to the finances of the early days of the church, we can not accurately say. But we are sure that the entire budget was less than $25.00 per year. Last year the Church Budget was $12.00. This year our Budget is $16.00.

We feel that the church is going forward and doing a great work in our community.

Respectfully,

Historical Comm.
Sarah Cash, Sec.

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