

THE BLYTHE METHODIST CHURCH OF THE

HEPHZIBAH-BLYTHE CHARGE

1972- AUGUSTA DISTRICT

This history of the Blythe Methodist Church was written by William Oliver Lindsey, Pastor, the data was supplied by Miss Anna Templeton, and Miss Marion Clark, and the church records.

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The writer can always drift into musings when coming across a new church, its history as to the starting point, the names of the people who were the prime movers in the enterprise. Located in the north corner of the town of Blythe in Richmond County there stands a beautiful little white church surrounded by a beautiful lawn with beautiful shrubbery, roses, shade trees and in the rear of Church there is one of the best kept burial places of any small church to be found any where most that one may go throughout the state of Georgia or elsewhere. Blythe is located in a very fine agricultural community.

This church was first known as Milton's Chapel, and was named for the Rev. J.D. Milton an honored member of the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. In 1893 the Rev. J.D. Milton and W.I. Delph of the said Conference came into our village and conducted a series of services. Twenty two joined the church on profession of faith. There was no Methodist Church nearer than six miles, hence the necessity for a church here. A mass meeting was held and the new church was organized on September 24, 1893. Messrs R.T. Atkinson, S.A. Palmer, J.T. Barwick, served as the building committee. The work was begun by faith and the first donations were contributed by S.A. Palmer, R.T. Atkinson, J.E. Templeton, A.W. Templeton, J.D. Beckum, W.F. Goolsby, J.T. Barwick, Lee and Bothwell, Mrs. T.C. Wise and many others. The church was completed, by the third Sunday in September, 1894 was set as the time for the dedication service. The Rev. J.D. Milton was chosen as the preacher for this occasion. After the delivery of a most powerful sermon, using as his text I Timothy 3:15.

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth," an offering was taken which amounted to the one hundred dollars necessary to pay all indebtedness, then the dedication service was concluded in a very solemn and impressive manner.

The Sunday School was organized by the Rev. F.W. McClesky, the first

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pastor sent by the North Georgia Conference, on the third Sunday in October 1894. Sam A. Saxon was the first superintendent, CO. Templeton secretary. The S.S. began with thirty five members and four classes.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1915 by Mrs. Hendee, Mrs. R. T. Atkinson, president. At the beginning the church was a part of the Richmond Circuit.

The names of some of the pastors are as follows:

J. D. Milton, W. I. Delph, who assisted in the organization, F. W. McClesky, W. R. Keathly, F. D. Cantrell, E. H. Wood, J. H. Little, C. L. Patillo, J. S. Embry, L. P. Winter, J. R. Jones, N. A. White, W. T. Bell, A. F. Nunn, W. S. Branham, B. H. Trammell, H. D. Pace, C. A. Hall, W. S. Norton, H. E. Stipe, E. P. Eubanks, L. P. Huckaby, J. B. Gresham, A. S. Hutchinson, J. W. Lee, G. H. Bailey, V. B. Hamrick, T. H. Maxwell, A. E. Scott, Charles R. Williams, and the present pastor William O. Lindsey.

During the pastorate of Chas. R. Williams, Mr. Milton Goolsby of Atlanta and formerly a member of this church gave the church a magnificent set of Norton chimes in memory of his parents.

During the current year (1950-51) the church has been painted both on the outside and inside, the grounds are well kept, and the church has bulletin board to designate the name of the church, and the time of the services. The church has Sunday School rooms that were added about twenty five or six years ago.

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