

## A HISTORY OF BOGGS CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

Richard Boggs and Ferdinand Phinizy, whose friendship was synonymous with that of Jonathan and David, established this little sanctuary - the year is unknown. It is affiliated with the North Georgia Methodist Conference as Boggs Chapel Methodist Church. In the back of an old ~~Hymn Book~~ <sup>Bible</sup> found in the church was this inscription: "Boggs Church, dedicated by Bishop George F. Pierce, June 30, 1876," which must have been years later.

Ferdinand Phinizy, one of Georgia's greatest financiers, was born in Oglethorpe County, January 20, 1818. He was a member of the Methodist Church, having joined one year before his death out at the little suburban church, Boggs Chapel, which he sustained almost alone with his charity. He attended this church very regularly, and kept it up by his unceasing liberality. He died 5:00 PM, at his residence, Sunday afternoon, October 20, 1889, at the age of 70.

Richard Boggs, a pioneer citizen of Clarke County, was the owner of thousands of acres of land, which he gave liberally to young people starting out in life. The land for Boggs Chapel was given by Richard Boggs, affectionally known as "Uncle Dick," a relative of the former chancellor Boggs of the University of Georgia. He was the foster father of Mrs. J. S. King, whose husband for many years was the "King" of the King-Hodgson Company of Athens.

The church was endowed by Ferdinand Phinizy with the condition that no musical instrument except the human voice without accompaniment be in the church. Mr. Phinizy was the father of Harriet Phinizy of Athens, and Charles Phinizy of Augusta, whose generosity was a strong factor in the existence of this sanctuary. It was dedicated to Bishop George F. Pierce in 1876, and has the honor of being the first work of Bishop Warren Candler.

When the community in which Boggs Chapel was located began to thin out, the membership and attendance began to drop so that by 1950, services were moved to 3:00 P.M. Sundays with only one service a month. In 1954, the doors were completely closed; there were no services at all. The church had fallen into a bad state

of decay when Reverend Roger W. Stone, Jr., a ministerial student at the University of Georgia, having had family connections at Boggs Chapel at one time, came out just to see the church.

Upon seeing the condition of the church, he contacted the District Superintendent, Dr. Harvey Holland, and asked permission to try to revive the dormant church. With Dr. Holland's permission, Roger began visiting in the community, which was beginning to take on new life, solicited members from The Young Harris Memorial Methodist Church, recalled some of the old members who had never moved their membership, and Boggs Chapel again became a "quickenened" house of the Lord. Brother Stone served the church as her pastor for 3 years, until June, 1957. Rev. Bobby Anthony, from Nicholson, Georgia., then became pastor and served for 2 years, until June 1959. Then came Rev. E. J. McDonald who served for 4 years. Under the leadership of these men, 137 people joined the church, many of which have been removed either by transfer, death, or moving away. The present membership stands at 108 as of this Homecoming date, October 3, 1965.

With the beginning of 1962-63, Boggs Chapel launched out on a full scale program, with the hope of becoming a station church (a full time charge, not part of a circuit), at the beginning of the new year, 1963-64. Thus it began, in the last year of Rev. McDonald's ministry, with Rev. A. W. Williams being the first full time pastor appointed by the North Georgia Conference. The church has an illustrious history, with many fine people having enriched its fellowship and coming through its portals.

We pray that those now members will lift again the cherished tradition of Boggs Chapel, and hold its sacred memories high. May the church live again remembering that Paul said: "Ye are the body of Christ." Let us glorify God through our love of this famous church. Let us renew our vows and be found faithful servants of Boggs Chapel Methodist Church.