1972 - Athens Elberton Unit

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HISTORY
OF
BOLDSPRING
CHURCH
1953

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BOLD SPRING CHURCH

Bol'd Sprina Church occupies a picturesque spot on a knoll about eight miles southwest of Carnesville in Franklin County near a big spring for which the Church was named.

Drop back more than a century and we find the fourth quarterly conference meeting at Bold Spring Camp Ground on October 29th, 1836 with F. D. Lowery as preacher and W. W. Mayfield as secretary. The financial report was $205.17 for the pastor and presiding elder. Exhorters also shared this sum. Of this Bold Spring paid $32.00.

The fourth quarterly conference met at Bold Spring Camp Ground October 29th, 1837 with W. J. Parks, presiding elder and H. C. Pickford, pastor. The Circuit paid $182.57 for the support of the ministry during the year.

This Camp Ground was established on a plat of ground near Bold Spring Church in 1829. On August 2, 1839, Nathan Gunnels leased the following trustees the said ground:

Edward Mayfield
Edward Carroll
John M. Neal

Nicholas Sewell
Alexander Langston
William H. Gober

Henry Cromer

He also leased the timber on fifty acres of land adjoining the Camp Ground with the privilege of the Spring. The timber on said land was to be used for keeping up the said ground for a period of ten years. The first Church was erected on this land in 1835 near the present site. The second Church was erected in 1896. On Dec. 14, 1952, the first service was held in the new sanctuary of the present Church which was on the same foundation of the third Church. The first two Churches were heated by wood fireplaces. The third Church had a wood heater. The new Church has gas heaters and electric lights. The following are the official board of Bold Spring Church in 1952:

Trustees:
Miss Mary Holbrooks
W. R. Sewell
Ralph Carson
D. H. Morgan
L. O. Shannon

Stewards
T. R. Segars
L. H. Gunnels
L. A. Hutcherson
Dwight Varner
Geo. Rice

G. W. Gunnels
J. E. Varner
G. E. Martin
Deyle Varner
Ralph Carson
Junier Stewards

Joseph Gunnells
Allen Morgan
Herman Sparks
Leland Gunnells, Jr.

The budget for 1952 was $1,000.00, of this $510.00 was paid to the pastor. The membership is 171.

The new Sanctuary cost $5,000.00. Plans are to complete the basement and brick veneer the outside and finish the outside to correspond with the lovely Sanctuary. The following have been pastors of Bold Spring Church:

John Oliver 1832
Gee. Carter 1833
Rebb. Edward 1834-35, First Church erected
F. D. Lowery 1836
E. P. Pickford 1837
Thos. Capers 1838
Abraham Pennington 1839-40
Eli Bennett 1841-42, First Sunday School
J. W. Farmer 1843
J. B. Chapell 1844
Jas. Quillian 1845
J. W. Carroll 1846
Andrew Ness 1847
H. Crawford 1848
William Moss 1849
H. Crawford 1850
William Cane 1851
E. S. Stephens 1852
H. H. Parks 1853
William J. Gette 1854
J. W. Brady 1855-56
A. J. Deavers 1857
W. T. Narman 1858-59
M. G. Hamby 1860-61
J. Chambers 1862
Rebb. A. Seale 1863-64
G. Hughes 1865-66
C. H. Ellis 1867-68
William F. Quillian 1869
B. Sanders 1870
J. G. Messley 1871
S. D. Evans 1872
J. H. Mashburn Jr 1873 Second Church erected.
W. L. Yarbrough 1874
William P. Smith 1875-76
C. A. Connaway 1877
W. T. Norman 1878
Sanford Leake 1879-80-81
William C. Butler 1882-83
R. F. Martin 1884-85
A. J. Hughes 1886-87-88
R. B. O. England 1889-90-91-92
J. A. Speck 1892-93
J. W. Stipe 1894-95
E. B. Reese 1896 - Third Church erected.
A. W. Simmons 1897
J. W. Gober 1898-99-1900
A. J. Sears 1901-02-03-04
A. A. Sullivan 1905-06
J. A. Speer 1907-08
W. A. Woodruff 1909
I. H. Miller 1910-11- Tent Meeting
Irby Henderson 1912-13-14
J. S. Strickland 1915
J. O. Green 1920, District Meeting - Bishop Candler
T. A. Rutland 1921-22-23 - Seven preachers
J. A. Griffies 1927-28 Home Coming
W. E. Purcell 1929-30-31-32-33, District Meeting
R. J. Kerr 1934
J. W. Lee 1935
R. W. Allison 1936-37-38
G. W. Davis 1939
D. E. Hageed 1940-41 - Built Basement; Organized W. S. C. S.
Harvey A. King 1942-43-44-45.
C. H. Grishe 1946-47
H. B. Free 1948-49-50
William L. Fesmire 1950-51
H. Dan Rice 1952- New Sanctuary Built.

Beginning with 1952 and thinking backwards we list some of the Presiding Elders and District Superintendents:-

J. C. Galloway 1950-51-52
Harace S. Smith 1946-47-48-49
J. Hamby Barton 1942-43-44-45
C. L. Middlebrooks 1939-49-41
M. M. Maxw-11 April 1938
Henry L. Bird 1937 - March 1938
C. C. Jarrell 1935-36
Jessie W. Veatch 1931-32-33-34
H. L. Edmondson 1927-28-29-30
Harace S. Smith 1923-24-25-26
W. L. Pierce 1920-21-22
Guss Venerable 1916-17-18-19
Fletcher Walton ?
W. J. Parks 1837

The following preachers have gone out from Bold Spring Church:-

A. D. Echels
J. J. M. Mize
B. F. Mize
J. L. Varner
E. O. Vickery
Robert Vickery
J. W. Segars
R. P. Segars
Paul H. Gunnels
O. L. Vickery
Guy K. Hutcherson //

Six of these were descendants of Nathan Gunnels
This is a history we are proud of. Seven of these names were carried to the North Georgia Conference by T. R. Rutland.

Our Church has been honored by many others. Teachers, Home Demonstration Agents, County Agents, Nurses, Lawyers and business men and women. We find good Church workers far and near who received their early training at Bold Spring.

On July 7th and 8th, 1927, while J. A. Griffies was pastor, a Home Coming was held at Bold Spring with the following coming back to us and taking part in the program:

- Julian F. Gunnels
- R. S. Hutcherson
- R. P. Segars
- B. F. Mize
- J. W. Segars
- Miss Earl Alexander
- J. F. Shannon
- E. O. Vickery

- P. H. Gunnels
- A. L. Echels
- J. E. Verner
- J. L. Varner
- Mrs. F. D. Garrison
- J. J. M. Mize
- C. L. Helbrook
- L. H. Martin

The first Sunday School was organized in 1842 by Rev. Henry Newton, a Presbyterian Preacher, who was teaching school at Bold Spring. E. W. Mayfield was elected Superintendent. This first Sunday School was a union school using union literature. It continued 18 months. Mr. Mayfield attended a District Conference and while the Sunday School was receiving consideration by the Conference, the facts developed that the Bold Spring School was using union literature. Those in authority were not pleased with the idea of union literature. Young Farmer, who was the preacher, brought about a change in things. The change created friction and the friction and change killed the Sunday School. After this, the first Sunday School came to an end in 1844. There was no Sunday School for some 25 years. After the Civil War the school was reorganized. E. W. Mayfield was elected Superintendent. Down through the years, the following have served as Superintendents:

- John F. Shannon
- Tom M. Patterson
- Jesse L. Varner
- Joe H. Gunnels
- L. A. Hutcherson

For the year 1952-53, the following are officers:

- Superintendent, G. W. Gunnels
- Secretary, M. C. Segars
- Pianist, Mrs. M. R. Bramlet
- Teachers:
  - Adult Class, G. W. Rice
  - Youth Class, Mrs. M. R. Bramlet
  - Intermediate Class, Mrs. W. H. Bellamy
  - Junior Class, Mrs. M. C. Segars
  - Primary Class, Mrs. John Varner
  - Kindergarten Class, Mrs. L. C. Sparks
The Adult Class recently organized with the following officers:

President, L. H. Gunnels  
Vice President, Mrs. K. H. Johnson  
Secretary, Mrs. C. B. Carsen  
Treasurer, D. H. Morgan

This class is very active on the building program now in process.

About 1913, Mrs. A. F. Carson organized the first Woman’s Missionary Society of Belo Spring Church with Mrs. Carson acting as President. Along the years this Society did their share in furnishing and replenishing the parsonage. They have served as house keepers for the Church. On Sunday morning when beautiful flowers greet the congregation some member of this group has placed them there. Two outstanding things they have done are purchasing a piano and communion set for the Church.

In August 1941, D. L. Hagedoed helped organize The Woman’s Society of Christian Service with the following charter members:

Miss Corine Segars, President          Mrs. M. C. Segars  
Mrs. Nettie Little, Treasurer          Miss Annette Segars  
Mrs. Ruby Ariall                       Mrs. L. C. Sparks  
Mrs. M. R. Bramlett                    Mrs. Sidney Parks  
Mrs. C. B. Carson                      Mrs. Flera Varner  
Mrs. G. W. Gummels                     Mrs. Doyle Varner  
Mrs. L. H. Gummels                     Mrs. Edna Varner  
Mrs. G. P. Gummels                     Miss Maude Varner  
Mrs. L. A. Hutcherson                  Mrs. Ed Varner  
Mrs. Benten Hall                       Mrs. J. D. Varner  
Miss Mary Holbrooks                    Mrs. Alton Varner  
Miss Lizzie Holbrooks                  Mrs. J. K. Williams  
Miss Iris Holbrooks                    Mrs. Crawford Whitseil  
Mrs. C. A. Langsten                    Mrs. M. L. Shelton  
Mrs. J. C. Mize                        Mrs. H. H. Strange  
Miss Louise Mize                       Mrs. L. O. Shannon  
Mrs. W. O. Phillips                    Mrs. Ralph Carson  
Miss Ellen Phillips                    Mrs. Buren Bellamy  
Mrs. Martin Neal                       Mrs. B. T. Smith

In the year 1952, we had an active roll of 35 with the following officers:

President, Mrs. W. H. Bellamy  
Vice President, Mrs. D. H. Morgan  
Secretary, Mrs. Flera Varner  
Treasurer, Mrs. L. C. Sparks  
Sect. of Promotion, Mrs. M. C. Segars  
Sect. of Missionary Ed., Mrs. M. R. Bramlett  
Sect. of Youth Work, Miss Gladys Holbrooks  
Sect. of Student Work, Mrs. G. E. Martin
We sent $42.95 to District Treasurer in the year 1951-52 and spent $50.00 on local work.

In 1912 Mrs. A. F. Carson organized an Epworth League at Bold Spring. She acted as Chairman and Counselor. Cady Varner was the first Secretary. In 1946 from the Epworth League, The Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized with Virginia Phillips the first President. Miss Annells Segars and Mrs. M. R. Bramlett were counselors. Miss Sylvia Sparks served as the second President. For the year 1952 the following are the officers of Bold Spring Methodist Youth Fellowship:

President, Joan Sparks
Vice President, Beverly Bramlett
Sect. and Treas. Lanele Bramlett
Commission of Worship and Evangelism, Ray Bellamy
Commission of Recreation, James Martin
Commission of Missions and World Friendship, Dwight Taber, Jr.
Commission on Community Service, Doris Bellamy
Counselors, Mrs. M. R. Bramlett and Mrs. L. C. Sparks

Until a few years ago an old parsonage stood about a quarter of a mile west of Bold Spring Church. Since we are on the Carnesville Charge, the present parsonage is at Carnesville. In recent years it has been modernized. This is the second building used for a parsonage in Carnesville.

In 1888, Sally Schley presented a silver-gold lined pitcher and goblet to Bold Spring Church. Many trips to the crystal spring were made using the silver pitcher and goblet.

In July 1920, while H. O. Green was pastor, Bold Spring Church entertained the Elberton District Conference. Bishop Warren A. Candler preached at an overflowing house. In 1932 Bold Spring Church entertained the Athens-Elberton District Conference. W. E. Purcell was pastor, J. W. Veatch Presiding Elder. Again a large crowd attended. These were two day conferences.

In 1947 we were honored by having William R. Cannen preach at Bold Spring Church. At one time Harvey H. Cox, President of Emory University visited us.

Along the years many great revivals have been held at Bold Spring Church. While I. H. Miller was pastor, with George Stone as Evangelist, a great tent meeting was held at Bold Spring with 108 joining the Church.
The Historians, Mrs. C. B. Carson and Mrs. W. H. Bellamy are indebted to Mrs. A. F. Carson's scrapbook, The Historical Edition of the Lavenia Times, members and friends of Bold Spring Church for this history. It is not complete but Bold Spring has a history of which we are proud. We hope the next chapter will be the best.

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Proposed Plan for the New Bold Spring Methodist Church

Finance Committee
Mrs. L. O. Shannon
Miss Gladys Holbrook
Mrs. Peggy Carter
Mrs. L. C. Sparks
Mrs. Leland Gunnels
Dwight Varner
Benton Hall
Hermon Sparks
Leland Gunnels

Building Committee
L. A. Hutcherson
Ralph Carson
W. Raiford Sewell
G. W. Gunnels
Mrs. M. R. Bramlett,
Treasurer
Rev. Bill Fosmire,
Pastor

The above picture shows you how our new church building will look. It will be of brick veneer with additional Sunday School rooms. The old building will be torn down, but we hope to make use of most of the material. We will use the same foundation for the new building. The sanctuary will be about the same size, but with the ceiling height greatly reduced. There will be two additional Sunday School rooms built at the back. We will also build an inside stairway going into the basement so that the little children will not get wet in case of rain. We will put in arched windows and will add a steeple. There will be a porch in the front of the building. It is hoped that we will be able to put in gas floor furnaces and a better lighting system.

The cost of the construction is expected to be about $10,000. We want to raise all of this amount before beginning construction and not have to borrow any funds. We hope to start construction in the late spring or early summer.

We are now in an individual canvass campaign. We are taking this opportunity of writing you in the belief that you will want to assist us.

Contributions may be sent to me, or to Mrs. M. R. Bramlett, Treasurer, Ashland, Georgia. Checks or money orders should be made out to Bold Spring Building Fund.

Yours in the service of Christ,