HISTORY

of

BOYNTON METHODIST CHURCH
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One day in 1850 a little band of Christians who had been long under the influence of Methodist circuit riders, gathered in a beautiful little grove about five miles from Ringgold, Georgia and here "broke ground" for the first building of what was to be known as the Beynten Methodist Church.

In our imagination we can see them new, as with bowed heads, throbbing hearts and quivering lips, they prayed God's blessings upon their endeavors to provide for themselves a place of worship. With strong hands and willing hearts they went into the nearby forest and felled great trees, cut them into logs and skillfully locked them into the form of a one-room church building, calling it the Albright Church.

This building stood just east of the present building which is now the Cemetery and was surrounded by acres of land deeded by Mr. Henry Albright.

With services only once a month the people found God in their crude building. But seen the log Church became old and a new Church was built just west of the old one and the old site was then made into a Cemetery.

We are not sure what happened to this last Church. Some say it burned, others said a new church was just needed but the third Church was then built. Here the name was changed to Beynten Methodist Church in honor of General Beynten. This was in about 1890. Services were held here until December 1929 and the church burned.

Busy hands began work on a new Church. The Church cost being $10,000.

This cost was borrowed and after hard work and generous hearts. The debt was lifted in 1940. A special Service marked the date. Bishop Arthur J. Moore was the guest speaker at an all day celebration.

Services were still only once a month and the people felt that they would like to have Preaching Services more often. So with Rock Springs, Georgia as the other charge, the Beynten and Rock Springs Churches began to work together.

A New parsonage was needed and Beynten found one near the church and bought it for $2,500.00. Rock Springs furnished it with very beautiful furnishings. The purchase was made in August 1942, and with the leadership of Reverend J. B. Ward, the debt was lifted in May 1944. The parsonage is now valued at $6,000.00.

The Dedication Service for the parsonage was in charge of Dr. C. M. Liphan, then District Superintendent. The Pastor of the Beynten -Rock Springs charge was Reverend J. R. Phillips.
The war called several of our young men to service for their home, church, and country. About 25 men from our church were called to give their services and one, Steve Hall, to give his life.

In the years that followed we sent from our church two preachers. Reverend S. P Stone, and Reverend W.F. Green. Both at one time served as Sunday School Superintendent, and song leader of our Sunday School.

We do not know who the first Sunday School Superintendent was. But we feel sure that the organization has long been a practice in the Beyton Methodist Church.

The Sunday School has now enrolled 151 members.

Beginners ---20
Primary-----14
Junior-----9
Intermediate---6
Joy Class---23
Steve Hall Class--20
Adult Class---30

Lamar Stone is now the song leader and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

In 1945 the young peoples' class became a mixed age and the class was divided. The married couples forming a class and the younger ones forming a class. The younger people chose to call their class the "Joy Class", which means: "Jesus first and others second and yourself last. The other class was called the "Young Adult" until the war claimed Steve Hall and they decided to name it the Steve Hall Class in honor of he who gave his life. The dedication was made in May, 1950.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship was first organized as the Epworth League and was organized around 1920. The name was then changed to Methodist Youth Fellowship and now has about twenty members. Miss Arva Jean Magin is the president. The Methodist Youth Fellowship has been very active in working for the church and giving its own name a good one.

The Woman’s Society of Christian Service was first organized 1926 with Mrs. Jennie Dailey as the president. Nine charter members were recorded. The organization has grown in the many years. It now has twenty-five members with Mrs. Marvin Sisson as president. It has 25 members now.

The ladies of this organization have given suppers, put on plays and done many things to help with the church work.

From the influence of these wonderful ladies and mother's a organization was begun which was known as the young ladies Missionary Society. Miss Marie Peck was the first president. Later the name was changed to Wesleyan Service Guild, and now has
20 members, and Mary Kathryn Robertson is president.

In 1948 the men of the church began a mens' fellowship club. The charter was obtained in 1950 and 25 men signed their names to become chartered members.

Mr. L. B. Robertson is now the President.

Many gifts have been given to the church. A Bible was given by Mrs. Jim Patterson. A nice chair for the pastor was also given by Mrs. Frank Morgan. Song books have been placed in the church in honor of Mrs. Mary Ditz Beaver and Mr. W. E. Dietz.

The Sunday School sponsors a Daily Vacation Bible School every summer. About 50 members are enrolled. Here the children are taught by members of the church and they learn of Jesus and Methodism.

Special services such as, Mother's Day, Christmas programs, and Easter are observed in the church.

Mr. J.C. Edwards is the chairman of the Board of Stewards. Miss Bettye Urban is the treasurer of the church and Mr. W.D. Warren is the janitor.

A centennial celebration is planned in July, to observe the great work of Methodism in the Beynton community.

In the past hundred years the Beynton Methodist church has made much progress, and with many years of work, prayer and guidance from the almighty God, we press forward to a higher and greater calling.

Mary Kathryn Robertson
Margaret Vaughan
Church Historian

Sources from which this material has been taken are: Mr. Luke Huskey, Mrs. Mollie McDaniel, and other members of our church and community.