

## HISTORY OF THE CHIPLEY METHODIST CHURCH

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The town of Chipley was settled in 1882 and on December 22nd of the same year there was recorded at the Court House the following deed: Town lot 199 (1/2 acre) bought from C. G. Flourney and deeded to U. H. Layfield, J. W. Tucker, R. A. White, Robert Spivey, and M. T. McGee, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, at Chipley, Harris County, Georgia for the sum of \$60.00. On May 13th, 1897 another deed was recorded; Town lot 209 (1/2 acre) was bought from J. B. Huff and deeded to the following trustees: R. B. Traylor, J. D. McGee, J. L. Allen, U. H. Layfield, J. T. Dunlap and T. L. Thomason, for the sum of \$50.00. These lots were "to be held in trust that said premises should be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of worship for the use of the Ministry and Membership of the M. E. Church South, subject to the Discipline, usage and Ministerial appointments of said church authorized and declared of the General Conference of said church and Annual Conference, within whose bounds the premises are situated."

In 1884 a sturdy, commodious and lovely church was erected and it is still in use. By 1920 it was imperative that a Sunday School Annex be built, so the church was veneered with brick and the interior refinished and redecorated. The original building was valued at \$1800.00 and the present building at \$35,000.00.

The town lots 198 and 210 (1/2 acre each) are joining the church property and a parsonage valued at \$10,000.00 has been built by the four churches on the Chipley Circuit, (Chipley, Hopewell, Salem, Whitesville) for the resident pastor.

Records show that a Sunday School was in progress as soon as the church was organized. The first pastor, S. D. Clements was also the first Sunday School Superintendent, but soon Taylor White took over this responsible office, and the following men have served through the years: A. A. Allen, J. L. Allen, T. L. Thomason, C. T. Hill, L. E. Floyd, W. B. Wisdom, Sam Durham, Charles Pitman, Joe Miller and Tom Livingston. The present enrollment is 175, with an average attendance of 98. The Church School contributed \$564.67 for all purposes last year.

In the early eighties a few women formed a helpful Ladies' Aid Society, but soon became a Missionary Society, under the leadership of Mrs. Daniel Hunt, President and Mrs. E. S. Cotton, Secretary and Treasurer. Mrs. Belle Evelyn was "Lady Manager for the Juveniles." The Society was small, only ten or fifteen members for many years, but the children were never neglected. Good missionary training was lovingly given by Miss Rosa Lowe, Mrs. A. H. S. Bugg, Mrs. Walter Dunlap, Mrs. Wiley Wisdom, Mrs. Leland Murrah, and today Mrs. C. D. Horton is continuing this splendid work.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized in 1940 with Mrs. Durand Miller, President, Mrs. Florence Johnson, Secretary and Mrs. Harold Magruder, Treasurer. There are sixty members and they are "Serving the Lord with gladness." Their contribution last year for Missions and Local Church Activities was \$784.00.

For many years Miss Janie O'Neal kept the Youth of the Church active through Christian Education and Service and their present leaders are: Mrs. Durand Sivell, Mrs. J. O. Kimbrough and Mrs. Joe McGee.

Music in the church has been appreciated through the years by the talent of these loyal members: Mrs. Quinton Purcell Jackson, Mrs. Annie Mae White Drewry, Miss Nelle White, Mrs. P. L. Hopkins and Mrs. J. O. Kimbrough.

In 1949 the children and grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Kimbrough presented a set of Chimes to the Church, thus honoring two loyal and faithful members. In 1951 a beautiful brass Altar Set was given by the Wisdom family in memory of Wilbur David Wisdom. Many furnishings of the church have been given in honor and memory of loved ones: James Madison O'Neal, Mrs. Mamie Layfield, Mrs. J. D. McGee, Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Dunlap, Mrs. Florence Adelaide Darling and William Neal. Seats for the Choir were given by Mrs. Ellie Mobley Irvin.

Arva Floyd, Wynton Jenkins and Charles Allen were affiliated with our church for a few years while their parents lived in this town. They have served Methodism in a fine way.

In 1931 Franklin Delano Roosevelt came over from Warm Springs and spoke to a capacity audience gathered in the Church.

Chisley Methodists are grateful to these District Superintendents, Presiding Elders and Pastors for Christian leadership and unselfish service from 1882 to 1951: J. F. Mixon, W. F. Cook, J. T. Gibson, T. R. Kendall, W. R. Foote, J. W. Quillian, W. F. Glenn, M. J. Cofer, B. P. Allen, W. L. Pierce, R. C. Cleckler, Wallace Rogers, W. H. LaPrade, Jr., W. M. Barnett, Augustus Ernest, J. W. Veatch, George L. King, W. M. Twiggs, Joe H. Thrailkill: S. D. Clements, W. T. Bell, J. H. Eakes, J. A. Timmerman, T. J. Christian, J. T. Lowe, T. J. Warlick, J. M. Bowden, H. J. Ellis, John R. Lewis, W. H. Cooper, J. M. Tumlin, L. W. Rivers, A. H. S. Bugg, J. A. Sewell, A. S. Hutchinson, M. M. Walraven, E. A. Ware, A. A. Sullivan, C. A. Hall, Bro. Benson, C. L. Middlebrooks, Sr., Henry T. Smith, J. R. Allen, R. P. Ethridge, J. H. Allison, S. A. F. Wagner, L. L. Burch and Comer L. Brownlow.

REV. J. S. THRAILKILL, Dist. Supt.  
1949 to DATE



This is the Official Roll: Harvey Anderson, Louis Askew, Fletcher Chapman, C. D. Horton, H. C. Kimbrough, Sr., J. O. Kimbrough, Pearce H. Layfield, J. Durand Miller, Joe D. Miller, H. M. Neisler, R. E. O'Neal, D. F. Parker, Earl Phillips, Charles S. Pitman, W. Durand Sivell, Tom Wisdom and W. B. Wisdom. There are two hundred members. The budget for last year was \$4,367.00.

A complete history and a list of the Charter members of the church is in the cornerstone of the church. It was written by Mrs. Robert H. Dunlap, who was a charter member.

Quarterly Conference records were the source of the information contained in this history.

May 1, 1951

Louise D. Miller,  
Historian