HISTORY

of

CLARKDALE METHODIST CHURCH
The History of the Clarkdale Methodist Church

In 1933, after the completion of the Clark Thread Company and its modern village, the employees of the company set themselves to the task of setting up a co-ordinated program of spiritual and neighborly development. The need for church activities was primary.

In September of the same year, on the site where Clarkdale Methodist Church now stands, Rev. Blake Craft and Rev. Bob Smith held a revival in a tent. It was so successful that the people decided at once to organize a church. Due to the fact that there were no separate church buildings in Clarkdale, the denominations alternated with services in the Recreation Building.

Methodists in the community set up their church, with Rev. Blake Craft as the first pastor. The late I. A. Baker, the late John Cummings, and W. G. Strickland were the first stewards. Mr. Baker was also, Sunday School superintendent.

At first the church was in the Powder Springs charge; then in the Austell charge and in 1938 was changed to the Little Springs charge with Rev. Frank Crawley as pastor.

On May 27, 1945, at quarterly conference a permit was granted for Clarkdale Methodists to erect a church on the Clark Thread Company's property, with a deed which remained in effect so long as the church maintained its membership. Rev. Dan Brewster was then pastor and was responsible to a great extent for the church being built.

In the fall of 1946 ground was broken and in January, 1948, the members who had worked so untiringly held the first meeting in the new church. On January 4, the first quarterly conference was held at Clarkdale, with District Supt. Wills Jones presiding. The Stewards at that time were W. G. Strickland, Gay Shelnutt, Dael McClung, James McPherson, Herbert Van Dyke, Mattie B. Laughridge and Waites Laughridge.
Pews for the new church were obtained in 1948, some being bought and others donated in memory of loved ones. Pulpit furniture was donated.

In December, 1948, through the efforts of Rev. J. H. Cameron, the W. S. C. S. was organized with Mrs. Euel McClung as president; Mrs. R. H. Causey, Vice-President; Mrs. Clara Millette, secretary; Mrs. Joe Hardy, treasurer. There were 20 members. The society has rendered yeoman service during its existence and has provided the church with a Hammond organ, a silver communion service and an oil painting.

Feeling that two services a month were not sufficient for the spiritual needs of the community, it was decided to ask for a full time charge. At the last quarterly conference, Rev. Wills Jones who was District Supt. at the time, promised that if we could raise sufficient salary for the pastor, he would try to grant our wish. This money was raised and in June, 1950, at the annual conference Fred Shelnut was sent to this charge.

The faith and efforts of the laymen have been rewarded for the attendance has increased and interest and fellowship of the people is very gratifying. The church now has eleven stewards, a choir director and a very active Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The church officers are as follows:

Rev. Fred Shelnut, Pastor

Stewards: James McPherson W. G. Strickland
          Euel McClung Herbert VanDyke
          Joe Hardy Mrs. R.H. Causey
          Gay Shelnut Mattie Laughrige
          Waiites Laughrige Evelyn Maxwell
          J. D. Julian

Rev. Billie Reed Wickline, Choir Director
Mrs. R. H. Causey, Organist
Mr. James McPherson, Church School Supt.
Mrs. Joe Sanford, Pres. W. S. C. S.

With Jesus Christ as the inspiration, the Clarkdale Methodist will continue to grow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. R. H. Causey
Mrs. Joe Hardy