1972 - Labor Day

HISTORY

Of

WHITESBURG CHARGE

Clem Church
New Hope Church
Powell Chapel
St. Paul Church
Whitesburg
The Clem Methodist Church is located in the southeastern part of Carroll County, four miles from Carrollton. It is a member of the Whitesburg Circuit, LaGrange District of the North Georgia Conference and has a membership of seventy-five.

The Church started from a little brush arbor on a spot known as Oak Mountain. The pastor, Rev. W. L. Davenport worked faithfully for a number of years bringing people to Christ. Quite a number of members joined this little church. In a few short years God revealed a vision to "Bro. Davenport" that there was a possibility of this little church being left without any support whatsoever to run on. There were only three or four members that owned their homes and the others moved from place to place, thus leaving the church. "Bro. Davenport", known as "Uncle Davenport" came down to the little country town known as Clem and found the answer to his dreams, for it was an ideal place for a church. Almost every family owned their homes and they wanted a church too, as the old pioneers did not have much conveyance of getting to church. It was the half way mark between four other Methodist churches, namely, Lowell, Whitesburg, Carrollton and Mt. Carmel. "Bro. Davenport" with the help of a few members decided to build a church. He applied through the North Georgia Conference for a building fund for the amount of one hundred and fifty dollars, but was issued only half that amount, which was only seventy-five dollars. Being a man filled with faith through God, he knew it could be done. The church was started, just a small building, but how proud they were! This building measured 40x50 feet with two large towers in front, but before it could be completed, three cyclones within a month blew the church down. It was placed back on its pillars and finished and services were held. People came to give God the praise. Around fourteen members joined the first year but as time went on, the Little Church began to sway with the winds. "Bro. Davenport" condemned it to be unsafe for future services, so the little church was torn down and the best of the material went into the making of the present church. In the year of 1897 a new and better church was started, (the present one) known as Clem Methodist Church. Mr. J. T. Bell, a member, sold the ground for the church building, there was already a cemetery started. Mr. Bell's wife was already sleeping there across the road, she being the first one to be buried in the cemetery to which Mr. Bell had donated the land, and the ground was broken for the church.

While the church was being built, services were held in the school house. Rev. W. L. Pierce preached the organization
sermon for the new church. The church was completed and Bro. Davenport was the first pastor to serve. To add to this wonderful man's blessings, his grandson, George Edwin Davenport was the first baby to be baptized in this church. There was also sadness in his life, as his daughter, Miss Fannie Davenport was the second one to be buried there.

Every Sabbath day, Fathers and Mothers with their children came to worship God and Praise Him for the hope of eternal life and redemption from the grave. Forty-eight members were added to the church the first year. As the years passed, so did many beloved pastors, but the faith of the old pioneers is still growing strong in the work of the Lord of this church.

Now we pause, to thank God as we turn a page in the making of this church. Our present pastor, Rev. Vernon Wynn, whom we are so justly proud has labored so faithfully since 1947. His old time preaching from God's word has brought many sinners down at the Sacred Alter, crying out, "What can I do to be saved?" He kneeling with them pouring out his heart to God, to save them or they perish, from everlasting fire. Many would arise shouting, "Glory to God, He saved me and made me a new creature, Praise His Holy Name!"

We would not forget our W. S. C. S and Church School and what it stands for. Our Church School Superintendent, Rev. J. Austin Gladney has done very much for the church. He too, being a man of God is always ready to work on the up-going of God's Kingdom. Rev. Gladney labored at the daily task of his job during the day and at night, he painted the interior of the church. Under his wise and able guidance, many other improvements have been added. Four new Church School rooms have been built, the front entrance which was on the side was moved to the center of the church. A cement porch and stoop has been built, two new front doors and a side door has replaced the old ones. On the inside of the church many other improvements have been made, including painting of the floor, building a new choir, Bible stand, blinds for both windows and doors, a wool carpet for the sacred stand and a piano.

This church has some what of a record for old and faithful members that still attend when health will permit. The two oldest ones are Mr. and Mrs. George W. Davenport. Mr. Davenport being the son of the first pastor of this church. Mr. Davenport has served this church as secretary, Stewart and trustee for fifty-two years. The present trustees are, Mr. Joe McCarty, Mr. George W. Davenport and Mr. M. T. Fuller.

Interest is being centered around a fund designated for a further improvement program for the future and to let the church stand as a beacon light to bring lost souls to Christ.

By,

Inez Long.