HISTORY

of

Colbert Church

Comer Church

Sample
As all early records of the Church have been misplaced, the information for this brief history was secured from older members of the church as they recalled facts relating to its early history.

Bethel Church, which was located about half-way between Five Forks (name later changed to Colbert) and Hull was sold in 1901, and the proceeds from the sale were equally divided between the members from Five Forks and members from Hull. The Hull members bought a lot but did not build, while Five Forks started its church that year, and it was completed in 1902. It was located on the present lot adjacent to the spot where the new church now stands, and was a wooden frame building. This lot was donated by Mr. Fletcher Colbert.

Rev. Felix Church had been Pastor of Bethel Church prior to its sale and he was instrumental in the organization of the new church. At the time of the sale, Rev. George Stone was pastor and served as first pastor of the newly organized church. The church was organized as Five Forks Methodist, but later changed to Colbert Methodist Church, when the name of the town was changed. Soon after completion, it was dedicated by Presiding Elder W. P. Lovejoy. There were approximately thirty charter members.

While the building was under construction, services were held in the Baptist Church except for some of the summer services, which were held under a brush arbor.

On the list of pastors that have served the church will be found the following: Reverends George Stone, J. M. Crowe, E. W. Jones, G. W. Tumlin, A. F. Nunn, Pierce Harris, who filled a six months vacancy, J. R. Jones, S. L. Hagan, W. A. Wells, M. R. Patillo, Z. Spears, W. D. Spence, T. H. Maxwell, A. D. Whitemore, O. B. Talley, B. L. Betts, W. L. Jolly, F. E. Crutcher, T. M. Sullivan, J. A. Griffies, F. G. Hendricks, who was pastor when the present building was erected, Henry Walker, J. S. Hill, L. G. Coward, J. W. Eberhardt, and Harold Braswell.

The Presiding Elders and District Superintendents who have served this district since Colbert Church was organized are: Reverends W. P. Lovejoy, J. W. Quillian, Mashburn, Robbins, Wiggins, Fletcher Walton, Edmondson, W. L. Pierce, G. W. Beatch, Gus Venable, Jarrell, Middlebrooks, Barton, Horace Smith and J. C. Calloway.

For the first few years Colbert Church was on the Danielsville charge, then placed on Comer-Colbert-Center-Nicholson charge with services one Sunday a month. In 1943, the Comer-Colbert charge was formed with each church having services two Sundays a month. Since being on this charge, Colbert first increased its payment on the Pastor's salary from $200 a year to $800 and recently (1952) this has been increased to $1,000 for the coming year.

The present brick structure, with three Sunday School rooms, was erected in 1941, the cost estimated around $3,000. H. F. Gaulding, S. R. Hardman,
C. C. Kincaid, J. M. Gaulding, H. C. Hardman and E. R. Mealor composed the building committee. The majority of the funds was raised through contributions of cash and labor by the members and friends. As no church was ever built on the lot at Hull, this lot was sold and the funds applied to the new church at Colbert. $200 was secured from the Church Extension Board. Memorial windows were installed and dedicated in 1950, and other physical improvements have been made since its completion, as new communion table, and pulpit chairs, also great improvement on church grounds. A fund has been started to add much needed rooms to the building. Bishop Arthur Moore dedicated the building in October, 1950.

As the church has progressed physically, so has it grown spiritually. During its early years, several large tent meetings were held during which many new members were brought into the fellowship of the church. Through the years many new members have been added to the roll, but others have passed on or moved away. 277 names have been entered on the register, 83 removed because of deaths or by certificate and the present roll has 194 names, but only 63 are considered active. Several charter members are still active workers in the church.

Sunday School has been held each Sunday since the church was established. The present enrollment is 88 with an average attendance of approximately 50. Vacation Bible School has been held for a week each summer for several years.

Both the W. S. C. S. and Men's Club are very active organizations. The W. S. C. S. was organized as a Missionary Society in 1916, and at present has an enrollment of 19. The Men's Club was organized in 1951, and it too has an enrollment of 19.

Although the active membership is small, and there is nothing spectacular about its history, much work has been done for the Lord during the Church's fifty years of existence. A fine spirit of fellowship and cooperation exists, and every effort put forth is with the faith and trust that it is helping to bring God's kingdom in.