HISTORY

County Line Methodist Church

1869 - 1969 - 1981
In 1945, the current minister, Rev. B. L. Barton, compiled the history of County Line Methodist Church with the assistance of Mrs. H. J. Sprayberry and Mrs. C. N. Day, now deceased. We are grateful to these people for this priceless information that follows.

County Line Methodist Church was organized about 1869, 100 years ago. Mrs. Sallie Harris was the founder of the Church. She and her husband Christifor Harris moved into this community from Cherokee County. They were Methodist people and had been active workers in the Methodist Church where they moved from. It was suggested that they join the Baptist Church at New Hope since there was not a Methodist Church in this community. Mr. Harris almost consented to join, but Mrs. Sallie refused, insisting that she was born a Methodist and with the help of God they would have a Methodist Church in this community.

A few years later there came a local preacher from Cartersville whose name was Uncle Sammie Jones into the community selling buggies. He stopped at the Harris home and in their conversation, Mrs. Harris learned he was also a Methodist preacher. She then related to him her prayers and hopes for a Methodist Church in the community. They discussed the possibilities of a Church, at which the Rev. Sammie Jones offered his services in the proposed project. They agreed on a date. Mrs. Harris went to work contacting the people in the community who might be interested, telling them of the proposed plans and the date set to begin.

On the 4th Sunday afternoon in May, 1869, under a Chestnut tree near the Christifor Harris home, Rev. Sammie Jones preached and the County Line Methodist Church was organized. This Church was organized with twelve charter members whose names can be found elsewhere in the Book.

The first type of a meeting place was a Brush Arbor near the Chestnut tree where the Church was organized. The location was one half mile Southwest of the present Church site on the Dallas road just over the county line in Pauldin county. This was how the Church got its name being so near the County line.

This site and brush arbor was used for about a year. The next summer it was decided not to try to go through another winter without a Church building of some kind. It was then that Christifor Harris and John W. Hill, a local preacher, gave four acres of land for a Church and cemetery. This being the present site. Christifor Harris gave two acres on the side of the road the Church is located on, and John W. Hill gave two acres across the road.

This summer a Church was erected not far from where the present Church stands. It was a crude building, the rafters were made of pine poles, the building was boxed with the planks running up and down. (It was often referred to as the up and down Church). The building was about twenty by thirty feet in size and was not sealed on the inside.
The seats were made of slabs, with holes bored for the legs to fit in and they had no backs to them. There was no pulpit in this building. The preacher stood where it was most convenient, for in winter months the seats (benches) were placed in a semi-circle around a large wood heater near the back of the Church.

The Church was small and would not accommodate the crowds that came to revivals. Another brush arbor was built in front of the old Church. This brush arbor was used for revival meetings for a number of years. The first revival held after the Church was erected was conducted by Rev. Charlie Day from South Carolina. He was a brother of Mr. Ben Day who lived in the community and whose descendants are still loyal members of the Church.

The first Pastor of County Line Church was Rev. Bob Jones from Cartersville. He was a son of Rev. Sammie Jones who helped organize the Church and an uncle of the world famous Evangelist Sam P. Jones.

The present Church building was erected in 1877 about eleven years after the first building. The present building was built by Johnie Babb and his boys, who were carpenters, with the members of the Church helping.

The benches that were used in the present building until 1944 were hand made at the time the Church was built. Bro. George Lewis had a partition placed in the center of the church to separate the men and women for fear the boys and girls would court during Church services. This partition was fastened to the benches and was about shoulder high when one was sitting. This partition was known among the younger people as the courting pole. It was removed from the Church about thirty-five or forty years ago.

No one can remember when the Sunday School was organized, most likely when the first Church building was erected. Johnie Babb was the first Sunday School Superintendent anyone can remember. County Line from the earliest days had a good Sunday School. The records show that at times the attendance was well over a hundred with much interest in the Sunday School.

The Sunday School for a long time was divided into two groups, the children and adults, with three classes, the adults being divided into men and women's classes. For many years there was no literature used at all, only the Bible. Later the children were given Bible cards and the adults used Bible questions prepared in a booklet form. Many Sunday School Associations have been held at County Line and other all day Sunday School days observed, giving emphasis to the religious training of the children.

Miss Lottie Eubanks, one of the charter members, gave her life to the educational training of the children of the community; teaching both in the literary school and Sunday School. She was a life long teacher of the children in the Sunday School. When she died the people of the community, led by John A. Lewis, bought a monument and put it at her grave as an expression of appreciation for her services. This monument stands in the County Line Church Cemetery today.

The first musical instrument was put in the Church in 1900. For a long time after the Church was organized the majority of the membership did not believe in having music in a Church. The first instrument used was a organ. The first funeral at which an instrument was used was Mrs. Cherry Ann Gunnell. She was always in favor of music in the Church and requested the organ be played at her funeral services.

After the organ was placed in the Church it was used at Sunday School, funerals and other occasions long before it was used for Church services. In spite of some of the earlier convictions about the instrument, County Line Church developed into a very musical minded Church. Good music and singing has been an outstanding contribution of the Church. For many years the second Sunday afternoon of each month was given to practice singing with musicians and song leaders in the surrounding communities taking part, a number of singing schools have been conducted in the church by music teachers like Joe Mcon, J. M. York, B. B. Beal and Pedges Jones. In the early days of the Church, the musical talent of the Lewis, Gunnell, and Hadaway families lived for the Church an outstanding glory, and which has been preserved to the present day by the Terry, Evans and Ruff families.

When the Church was organized it was about a year before they had a regular pastor. Their preaching services were no doubt irregular and uncertain, as they had to depend on who they might get to preach.

It was during the time they were without a regular pastor, and struggling to get the Church established that the members (original twelve) held a ten day prayer meeting praying asking the Lord to send them a preacher. As a result of this prayer meeting, Rev. Simon Peter Richardson, a great evangelist and outstanding preacher in Georgia Methodism, came and preached from Friday night through Sunday night. This proved to be perhaps the greatest revival in the history of the Church. It is reported some forty to fifty were converted and joined the Church.

The Church was first served by a pastor from Cartersville. Later it was placed on the Dallas Circuit — Sweetwater Circuit — Dallas again, Powder Springs, Acworth, Powder Springs and Acworth, County Line Church was geographically located where it could be served from a number of places. So when a new circuit was formed it often took County Line Church to furnish enough Churches and give sufficient strength to form a circuit, is the reason the Church was so often changed from one circuit to another.

The track of land set aside for a Cemetery was not used for several years after the Church was built. The people at that time were burying in family burying grounds and Allatoona Cemetery. Mrs. Emeline Parks, wife of Eli Parks was the first person to be buried in County Line Church Cemetery, October 5, 1871.
This grand old Church has had a noble history of a century she has not only helped to shape the religious life of the community in which she is a part, but has sent a continuous stream of Christian influence into the state and nation through her sons and daughters. This Church has given the finest type of men and women to all professions and walks of life. We pause here to mention four of her honored sons who hold outstanding places of leadership in the field of Education and religion. Mr. W. P. Sprayberry, Superintendent of Cobb County Schools, Robert L. Osborne, Superintendent of Robert L. Osborne High School, James Henton Ether, Superintendent of Buckhanan High School and Rev. William Riff, Pastor of First Methodist Church, Marietta, Ga.

Two thirds of the membership of the Acworth Methodist Church have come from County Line, also a number at Marietta, Kenesaw, Powder Springs, Dallas and many of the Atlanta Churches. No Church has had a greater and more far reaching influence than County Line.

During the year 1915 the Church building was remodeled, painted and new church pews added, then the following changes were made:

March 1925—Floor tiled.
December 1950—Women's Society of Christian Service organized.
1955—Rev. Troy Cline Smith, Emory Student, became the first full-time pastor of church or Assistant Pastor of the Acworth Charge serving County Line.
1956—Church School annex was built.
1957—Acworth Church bought County Line share in the parsonage by giving one-quarter of estimated value, $1,750.00.
1959—Kneeling pads placed by WSCS.
1960—Piano bought by Church and WSCS.
1962—Central heating system installed in church and annex.
1962—Carpet placed in Sanctuary.
1964—Parsonage bought from Highway Department and moved to present site in November.
1966—Mobile Home purchased for extra Church School rooms.
1966—Roper Memorial Monument.
1967—The Church was placed on full time charge known as County Line Charge.
1968—Name changed to County Line United Methodist Church.
1968—Women's Society became the Women's Society of Christian Service.

The physical property is in fine shape. The present membership is very loyal and faithful to all the calls of the Church. The membership is not very large now and sometimes our responsibilities are heavy. So we covet the prayers and interest of all whose lives have been touched by this Church for the continued fine service of this church to mankind.
1980 Hanging Cross added to Sanctuary in memory of Ken Beadles by wife Dottie Beadles

1981 Note paid off to First National Bank of Cobb County That County Line Church borrowed to build annex in 1975.