Dillard's Chapel

Dillard's Chapel was founded some time between 1850 and 1875 in Fannin county, just across the Union and Fannin county line.

A circuit rider named Dillard organized a church in Fannin county. He, aided by a few faithful members, went to the woods, cut trees, dragged them in with oxen, and built a little log church. They then split logs and made benches for the church. At that time it was a very sacred place with great revivals where souls would kneel at the altar and weep their way to God. For years they worshipped there and believed in "pure religion and undefiled before God."

Dolph Taffers and Marshal Rhodes were the charter members of Dillard's Chapel. This church was started as an independent church, it was not sponsored by any organization.

About 1890 the church had grown in membership making it possible to build another house of worship. This was a framed building.

From this time until 1905 the church records are lost. In 1905, W. B. Dillard, a younger brother of the founder, was the Presiding Elder of the district. His personal donation to the church was its present pulpit.

Because of people moving and deaths in the community the church activities almost stopped. In 1920, Rev. R. I. Johnson was pastor of the Blairsville Circuit. He visited a small school in the Timber Ridge community. After several visits in the community a church was organized with nine members.
Monthly services, held on Wednesday night, were conducted at Timber Ridge for a year. Regardless of the weather, Rev. Johnson always filled his preaching appointment.

While S. R. England was the Presiding Elder, permission was granted by the Quarterly Conference to move the Church building from Fannin County to its present location in Union county. In two years the membership grew from nine to thirty-one members.

W. F. Totherow did the clearing for the new building, J. B. Legg donated the land for the church and cemetary. Many great revivals have been held here.

The first Sunday School was organized before the church was built. Miss Lucy Totherow was the Superintendent of this organization. Due to migration the Sunday School membership has decreased from 16 at its beginning to 10 at present. The first pastor's salary was $15.00 if it could be obtained. Some of the times it could not be paid for money was scarce and hard to get. By tithing this amount has been increased to five and one-half times as much.

In 1945-46 the church was practically closed, but as soon as a preacher was sent, Billard's Chapel was ready to go.

Billard's Chapel, though small, moves on, serving its small mountain community well. It has one of the finest Christian spirits to be found anywhere.