HISTORY OF FAIRVIEW METHODIST CHURCH

By Mrs. C. A. Turner

Fairview Methodist Church was organized with thirty-four members, May, 1894, under a brush arbor near the present site of the church. This was used until the church was built, which building was begun the next year. The land was given by Mrs. E. J. Sewell, on April 19, 1895. The deed for three and six-tenths acres was signed by Mrs. E. J. Sewell, J. R. F. Sewell, and Mrs. Lou Jackson; deeded to T. A. Norris, C. B. Sewell, J. Rutherford, Oscar Cannon, J. M. Thomason, trustees. The first membership included the families of R. E. McWhorter, S. K. Cannon, J. M. Thomason, T. A. Norris, J. Rutherford, Cone Adams, Mrs. E. J. Sewell, Sarah Sewell, Mrs. W. H. Turner, and Mrs. Oliver Parker.

S. K. Cannon and J. M. Thomason gave the lumber and it was sawed by J. M. Thomason and Jack Andrews. S. K. Cannon named the church Fairview, which was the name of the church he joined when a boy in Oconee County, South Carolina.

The original building is now in use, which was built during the pastorate of F. D. Cantrell and G. H. Yarborough presiding Elder. Oscar Cannon, C. B. Sewell and T. A. Norris were members of the building committee. Then in 1920, during the pastorate of J. C. Adams Sunday School rooms were added. The young people paid for this improvement by planting five pounds of cotton seed and presenting the cotton to the church. The building was dedicated the 5th Sunday in August 1898, W. A. Simmons being the pastor and the sermon was preached by F. D. Cantrell.
The first stewards were T. A. Norris, C. B. Sewell, and Oscar Cannon. T. A. Norris served as Sunday School Superintendent until the first Quarterly Conference was held at which time S. K. Cannon was elected. He was succeeded by the following: J. M. Thomason, T. A. Norris, Ben McWhorter, Ford McWhorter, M. P. Sewell, John Ledbetter, Morris Cheek, Ides Chitwood, J. T. Whitfield, Grady Haley, Lee McWhorter, and Marvin Chitwood who is the present Church School Superintendent.


The woman's missionary organization was organized in 1917 with twenty members, under the leadership of Miss Bert Winter. Mrs. J. S. Ledbetter was elected its first president and those who have served since that time are as follows: Mrs. E. E. McWhorter, Mrs. Grady Haley, Mrs. C. A. Turner, Mrs. J. T. Whitfield, Mrs. Lee McWhorter, Mrs. Jack Turner who is the present W. S. C. S. president. Also, in 1917 a young peoples society was organized with Mrs. Chas. Turner as leader and those succeeding her are as follows: Lorraine Turner, Sarah White, Faith McWhorter, Boyce Ledbetter, Horace Duncan, Lee
McWhorter, Ruby Bailey, Hubert Kealer, Margaret Sewell, Mrs. Thurston Whitfield, Anne Sewell, and Mrs. Lee McWhorter.

The church is being served at present by the following officials: Stewards: A. B. Sewell, W. C. Sewell, A. T. Decker, J. T. Whitfield, and Ides Chitwood; Trustees: A. B. Sewell, Grady Haley, C. A. Turner, C. D. Cannon, Sr., J. S. Ledbetter. The present membership is about