

1972 Adams - Elberton Desk
Bishop

12

HISTORY OF FARMINGTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The site of the original Farmington Methodist Church, so far as we have been able to find out, was a small, one-room log-house, located at a cemetery on the farm of O. M. Branch, Oconee County, Georgia, about one mile south of Bishop.

The name of the original meeting-house was Mount Zion, where it remained until 1856. Incidentally, the father of Bishop James Osgood Andrew is buried there. Bishop Andrew was the first Georgian who had been elevated to the place of bishop, and he was the son of John Andrew, the first native Georgian who had been a teaching-preacher. All Methodism owes a debt to James Osgood Andrew - all southern Methodism, an especial one - but to Georgia Methodists he was dearer than to any others.

Farmington was on the Watkinsville Circuit in 1850 -
Proof: See the old Quarterly Meeting Minute Book in the Ordinary's office, Court House, Oconee County. In the reminiscences of the old Watkinsville Circuit, written by one of our preachers, Rev. William J. Cotter, February 27, 1894, he said our Conference met at Griffin, December, 1851. Bishop Andrew presided. When he first arrived in Watkinsville, Reverend Cotter was directed to go to the home of Rev. John Calvin Johnson, a combination man - whom he described as a person of a high order of minds, scholarly, polite,

hospitable, Clerk of the Court, steward and local preacher. In the words of Rev. Cotter, "We were cordially received. Our hostess was a woman of marked individuality, and a devout Christian. She gave me much valuable information about the people, saying, "I have resolved to pray for your success." With her frank and sincere manner, this encouraged me."

"Salem and Farmington, educational centers, surrounded by wealth, were the next appointments. We had a good hour at Salem, and in the afternoon at Farmington, the Spirit was present, and the responsive tears and countenances of the brethren and sisters helped the preacher, and when I came down from the pulpit, an unction rested upon the Christian greeting I received as their pastor from Col. Branch, Dr. Price, Brother Williamson, and many other godly men and women."

On July 15, 1856, a Warranty Deed was made from Barton Thrasher to James C. Branch, Joseph Williams, Sr., James A. Price, Isaac Thrasher, and George W. Anderson, Trustees of Farmington Methodist Church. This land was deeded in trust for the Farmington Methodist Church, as at this site, the present church was built and is still used as a place of worship. This deed is recorded in Book W, pages 219-220, Clerk's Office, Clarke County, Georgia.

Farmington was on the Watkinsville Circuit for many years, until it was changed to the Apalachee Circuit, which is composed of Apalachee, Bostwick, Prospect, and Farmington. The parsonage is located at Apalachee and the deed to same has been lost, but is recorded in the Clerk's Office, Morgan County Superior Court, Book T, page 508.

Included below, is a list of the preachers, presiding elders, and junior preachers, from the year 1850 through the year 1898, in-

clusive, which is the year that the Farmington Church was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Watkinsville Circuit.

Year	Pastor in Charge	Presiding Elder	Junior Preacher
1850	J. D. Adams	Wm. J. Pierce	H. P. Harrison
1851	J.D. Adams and George Bright	"	"
1852	Wm. J. Cotter	"	Jno. H. Grogan
1853	"	"	J.R. Littlejohn
1854	Jesse R. Littlejohn	J.W. Talley	Thomas Boring
1855	David Blalock	"	Jno. Pattillo
1856	"	"	Jno. W. McGahee
1857	Wm. H. C. Cone	"	Jacob C. Neese
1858	"	Alfred F. Mann	Aug. T. Williamson
1859	John C. Simmons	J. O. A. Clark	W. C.D. Perry
1860	"	"	Wm. C. Rowland
1861	Fillman F. Reynolds	"	Jno. R. Parker
1862	Atticus G. Haygood	Robt. W. Bright	Anderson J. Jarrell
1863	D.J. Myrick	"	Emory F. Anderson
1864	"	"	"
1865	"	"	James L. Fowler
1866	A. G. Worley	Walter R. Branham	Robt. J. Corley
1867	Cicero A. Mitchell	"	Emory F. Anderson
1868	Richard J. Harwill	"	Henry J. Ellis
1869	"	Thomas F. Pierce	J. H. Baxter
1870	E. G. Murrah	"	Jas. M. Bell
1871	Jno. W. Knight	"	J. V. M. Morris
1872	J. V. M. Morris	Eustice W. Speer	Jno. W. Knight
1873	Jno. W. Kinght	"	B. L. Hume
1874	Wm. W. Oslin	Thomas F. Pierce	Wm. W. Lumpkin
1875	"	"	W. H. Trammell
1876	"	"	"
1877	"	"	Warren A. Candler
1878	Miles W. Arnold	Robert W. Bright	Mike D. Turner
1879	W. J. Cotter	"	(none shown)
1880	"	"	J.J. Morgan
1881	H. J. Ellis	"	(none shown)
1882	"	George W. Yarbrough	-----
1883	R. A. Seals	"	-----
1884	"	Jesse Boring	-----
1885	J. V. M. Morris	J. D. Hammond	-----
1886	"	Simon Peter Richardson	-----
1887	"	"	-----

(cont.)

Year	Pastor in Charge	Presiding Elder	Junior Preacher
1888	G. A. Conway	Simon Peter Richardsdon	
1889	"	"	
1890	E. B. Reese	H. H. Parks	
1891	"	"	
1892	"	"	
1893	"	"	
1894	Robert T. Martin	Luke G. Johnson	
1895	Jas. J. Ansley	Wm P. Lovejoy	
1896	"	"	
1897	Simeon Shaw	"	
1898	J.S. Askew	J. R. Robbins	A. B. Sanders

Records since 1898 are somewhat incomplete in this respect, and for this reason, the list is not given to date.

Our records reflect that there are ~~54~~ members on our rolls as onf June 15, 1952.

Our present pastor is Reverend Ralph Mabry, who is a very earnest, energetic, and zealous worker.

We have our regular monthly preaching service every third Sunday.

Our plans for the future include improvements of our building and grounds.

The above historical record was compiled by

Signed: Claire M. Branch
Claire M. Branch
(Mrs. O. M. Branch)

Date: June 15, 1952

Place: Bishop