

FIELD'S CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH
A History

Field's Chapel Methodist Church is on the Holly Springs Charge, Atlant-West District, North Georgia Conference. The church is located six miles west of Canton, Georgia just off Georgia Hwy. # 20. It is about one mile from Allatoona Lake.

The first Field's Chapel Church was built by Jeremiah Field, who was born April 26, 1768 and died December 23, 1854. The church was built sometime during his lifetime. We have no record or date as to when it was built, but we suppose that it was built sometime around 1820 or perhaps before that date. We know that the first church stood for many years and was in use until the church which now stands was built by Charles S. Steele in 1898 and completed in 1899. This church was sponsored and founded by Earl Elias Field and was dedicated on the First Sunday in June, 1899. Rev. Sam P. Jones dedicated the church and it was said that there were three thousand people present to witness the dedication in spite of the rainy weather. Rev. Joe Jones, brother of Sam P. Jones, held services that day in the old church which stood between the present church and the cemetery. This Homecoming Day, June 3, 1951, marks the 52th Anniversary of the dedication of this church in 1899. Mrs. Fredonia Field Maston, daughter of Earl Elias Field, placed the memorial window in the church in honor of her father. Jeremiah Field's descendants, five sons and one daughter were named: William, Dolen, Mattison, Elias, Elijah, and Melinda.

Elias E. Field and his wife, Susan McKinney Field had one daughter and two sons. They were: Fredonia Field Maston, Marcus Harvey Field, and Earl Elias Field. Marcus Field's living descendants are: Annie Field Brumby and Fredonia Field Harmon. The living descendants of Earl Elias Field are: Susie Lee Field Lovell, Jeremiah Earl Field, Marcus Harvey Field, and James McKinney Field.

The builder of the church, Charles S. Steele, was at one time a member of the legislature from Cherokee County. He married Harriet Brewster, who was a sister of Rev. Patrick Henry Brewster. Rev. Brewster was pastor of Field's Chapel Church near 1870 and perhaps before that time.

Rev. Brewster was the grandfather of Susan Bedelle Lewis, Clara Bedelle Perkinson, and Linda Bedelle Perry, and the late Emmett and Clarence Bedelle who were active members.

The late George W. Gramling, who secured, placed and laid the rock for the foundation of this church, was superintendant of the Sunday School for many years. Others who aided in the

construction of the church were Walter Stone, and Lee Hill-house.

Some of the outstanding ministers and laymen to whom we may pay tribute are: Rev. W. H. Cooper, who served this charge 1885-87, added many members. A wonderful revival was held in the summer after the dedication by the pastor at that time, Rev. J. I. Watts. Augustus Stone was the Sunday School Supt. for several years at this time. Throughout the years numbers of members were added under such able ministers and servants of our Lord as the Rev. W. H. Speer, 1925; Rev. W. A. Pilgrim, Rev. Loran Parker, and many others.

Also faithful in their service since the didication in 1899 were Rev. Marshall McClure, Rev. L. B. Hughes, and Rev. Ira B. Lewis, whose father Rev. Thomas Lewis was also a Methodist minister.

A great event in the history of this church was a glorious revival held and conducted in August, 1927 by the pastor Rev. J. M. Perry. During this revival forty-nine were converted and twenty-four were received in the thurch by baptism. Another good revival was held in August, 1949 by the pastors, Rev. James M. Godbey and Rev. C. E. Spier, Jr. Eight were received into the church then.

For

~~Following is a list of the pastors of this church and the date of their appointment:~~

In 1927 and 1928 many of the land owners sold their land for the construction of the present Allatoona Lake. A large number of the people moved away. For many years there were only a few attending church services at Field's Chapel. The church was badly in need of repair, so in April, 1950, a building fund was started by the faithful few who attended. Over \$900.00 was given, and work was begun. The building was painted outside, the ceiling was repaired, new windows were installed, and the pews were refinished, among other things. Mr. Lawrence Cobb gave two beautiful pictures to the church.

In September, 1950 the floor was sanded and refinished. The repair work was now completed, as well as the Knox Bridge over Etowah River at the beginning of Allatoona Lake. A Homecoming was held the first Sunday in October. Many of the old member came back and had an enjoyable day. A new porch was erected early in 1951.

Since 1951 further building improvements have been made including a new altar, new roof, heating system, and other

items.

Homecomings are held each First Sunday in June. The Annual revival is First Sunday in August.

A list of the pastors with the date of their appointment: W. M. Bond, 1882; Samuel Jones, 1884; J. A. Sullivan, 1885; 1886-87 unknown; H. M. Smith, 1888; G. W. Anderson, 1888; W. J. Wood, 1889-90; L. D. Coggins, 1891; J. T. Daves, 1892; J. A. Sullivan, 1893-94; W. H. Cooper, 1895-97; L. Dow Coggins, 1898; J. I. Watts, 1899-1900.

J. R. Speer, 1901; J. E. Russell, 1902; T. H. Dillard, 1903; Walter King, 1904; J. R. Allen, 1905-06; P. Z. Fretwell, 1907-10; Elisha Shields, 1911-12; R. I. Johnson, 1913-14; J. C. Crow and F. C. Owens, 1915; W. E. Percell and F. C. Owens, 1916; Odem Clark, 1917; J. H. Bailey, 1918; J. A. Chandler, 1919; G. T. Shell, 1920-21; J. L. Moore, 1922; W. H. Speer, 1923-25; L. M. Davidson, 1926; J. M. Perry, 1927-28; A. J. Willingham, 1929-30; O. L. Vickery, 1931-34; W. A. Pilgrim, 1935-37; A. S. Ulm, 1938; W. B. Mills, 1939-1940; Loran Parker, 1941-42; Thomas Fowler, 1943-44; J. M. Barker, 1945-46.

In 1947 an associate pastor was assigned to the Holly Springs charge to assist the pastor. Norris King and James M. Godbey, 1947; M. L. Bartley and James M. Godbey, 1948; C. E. Spier, Jr., and James M. Godbey, 1949; C. E. Spier, Jr., and Harold E. Braswell, 1950-52; Rev. Willie P. Berkner and Ira Bedelle, 1952-53; W. P. Berkner and Kenneth Criswell, 1953-55; James William Dupree and Calvin Ward, 1955-57.

The material for the history (1951) was gathered by Susie Bedelle Lewis and Pauline Bedelle Gramling. The history was written by Rev. and Mrs. Harold Braswell.

March, 1957
Holly Springs, Georgia
Rev. Bill Dupree