

Fayette Charge

HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP METHODIST CHURCH

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Friendship Methodist Church is located in 1262 district of Fayette County, Ga. Six miles North of Fayetteville the County seat.

~~Friendship Church~~

Friendship Church was organized in September 1890 by Josiah Rivers, a local preacher from Bethany Church on the Fairburn circuit. It was organized in an old store house known as Milner store. Milner Store was the name of a Post Office that was at this place and was moved into the Milner residence when the store ceased to be run.

Thaddeus Lewis and Lonnie Eason, two boys of this settlement were largely responsible for the organization of Friendship Church. They attended a meeting of the Salvation Army at Bethany, and were converted at this meeting, and joined the church at Bethany.

There wasn't a Methodist Church nearer to their homes than Bethany, Fayetteville or Riverdale. They felt the urge to work so they organized a Sunday School in the old store house. It grew in interest and the men and boys built a brush arbor in the grove and a revival was held that summer by Josiah Rivers and E. W. Jones of Bethany. In September the Church was organized with seventeen charter members. The names of the charter members as nearly as can be obtained are: W. L. Cox, Mrs. Cadelia Cox, Mrs. Amanda Flowers, W. J. Cox, Mrs. Lucrecia Cox, Thaddeus Lewis, Lonnie Eason, Miss Levinia Eason (Johnson), Mrs. Julia Mitchell, Kiniard Turner, Mrs. Sallie Black Turner, Arthur Turner, Mrs. Troupie Turner (Turner), Jim Turner, Thomas J. Cox, Miss Mollie Eason (Banks), Benjamin Cox.

When conference met, the new Church was placed on the Fayetteville Circuit with an afternoon appointment, the pastor being John Speir. The Elder was Thomas Pierce.

The first winter services were held in a log cabin on Mrs. Eason's place, as there was no way to heat the old store.

The newly organized Church Members began to work to build a Church. Mrs. Jane Eason donated one acre of land for the Church. The men cut and hauled logs to the saw mill and soon had the Church built. At first the services were held in the Church with only sheeting floor and punching seats. The members were faithful and kept working until they had a good floor and seats.

In June 1894 the Church was dedicated by John D. Heidt.

The Church had always been called the new church. Before it could be dedicated it had to be named. There were several names suggested at the Quarterly Conference to be voted upon. Among them was "Friendship", suggested by Miss Nevada Lewis. When the vote was taken, Friendship was chosen.

List of Pastors Serving Friendship Church:
South Atlanta District:

DATE	NAME
Nov. 1890 to 1891	John Spier
" 1891 2 1892	E. H. Wood
" 1892 " 1893	E. H. Wood
" 1893 " 1894	G. W. Thomas
" 1894 " 1895	R. A. Seal
" 1895 " 1896	A. B. Weaver
" 1896 " 1897	Loy Warwick
" 1897 " 1898	Loy Warwick
" 1898 " 1899	Loy Warwick
" 1899 " 1900	Loy Warwick

Griffin District:

" 1900 " 1901	Crawford Jackson
" 1901 " 1902	John Speir
" 1902 " 1903	John Speir
" 1903 " 1904	E. M. Akin
" 1904 " 1905	W. H. Speer
" 1905 " 1906	W. H. Speer
" 1906 " 1907	J. D. Snyder
" 1907 " 1908	I. W. Keithley
" 1908 " 1909	I. W. Keithley
" 1909 " 1910	L. W. Keithley
" 1910 " 1911	I. W. Keithley
" 1911 " 1912	W. J. Debardeleben
" 1912 " 1913	W. J. Debardeleben
" 1913 " 1914	W. J. Debardeleben
" 1914 " 1915	W. J. Debardeleben
" 1915 " 1916	A. B. Sanders
" 1916 " 1917	A. B. Sanders George Gary
" 1917 " 1918	J. D. Milton
" 1918 " 1919	J. D. Milton
" 1919 " 1920	J. R. Jones
" 1920 " 1921	A. W. Conway
" 1921 " 1922	Jessie Terrell
" 1922 " 1923	J. S. Askew
" 1923 " 1924	J. S. Askew
" 1924 " 1925	J. S. Askew
" 1925 " 1926	M. M. Maxwell
" 1926 " 1927	M. M. Maxwell
" 1927 " 1928	M. M. Maxwell
" 1928 " 1929	H. H. Dillard
" 1929 " 1930	O. L. Kelley

DATE

NAME

Nov. 1930 to 1931 L. Okley Wilburn

" 1931 to Sept. 1932 L. Okley Wilburn

" ~~Sept.~~ 1932 to Nov. 1932 Paul Touchtone

" 1932 to May 1933 Jack Nickolds

" ~~May~~ 1933 to Nov. 1933 Robert Stewart

Nov. 1933 to Nov. 1934 Robert Stewart

" 1934 to June 1935 A. D. Whitamore

June 1935 to Nov. 1935 J. Clinton Ward

Nov. 1935 to Nov. 1936 J. Clinton Ward

" 1936 to Nov. 1937 J. D. Gibson

" 1937 to Nov. 1938 Marvin Felton

" 1938 to April 1939 Blake Craft

April 1939 to Nov. 1939 F. C. Koons

Nov. 1939 to Nov. 1940 R. J. Donaldsen

" 1940 to " 1941 Carl Dodds

" 1941 to " 1942 William Tyson

" 1942 to " 1943 William Tyson

" 1943 to " 1944 William Tyson

" 1944 to " 1945 C. S. Middlebrooks

" 1945 to " 1946 P. G. Curry

" 1946 to " 1947 P. G. Curry

" 1947 to June 1948 P. G. Curry

June 1948 to Sept. 1948 Loyd Rogers

Sept. 1948 to June 1949 C. L. Harper

June 1949 to June 1950 Neil Windom.

Elders:

South Atlanta:

Thomas Pierce, John D. Heidt, W. P. Lovejoy,.

Griffin District:

J. R. Robins, W. F. Green, J. T. Daves, J. H. Eakes.

Other Elders or District Supt. who have served Friendship are:

Luke Johnson, W. T. Hunnicutt, W. M. Twiggs, A. M. Pierce, M. M. Maxwell, Paul Turner and H. H. Jones.

Local Preachers:

Rev. ~~Yoda~~, Rev. Jones, Rev. Jim Farr, Rev. Joe Farr, Rev. L. L. Landrum, Rev. Jim Hightower, Rev. Eugene Blalock, Rev. Tom Brown.

Others During Meetings:

Charles Knowles. Joe Banks, Bogan Mask and Walter Jones.

All these were back in the early days of the Church when people had time to go to church both day and night and week after week, sometimes. Thus Friendship Church was born.

Today we are proud of our Church and cherish the memory of those loyal soul who made possible the church of today.

We reap the benefit of the bushels of corn and fed to the preachers horses, and the potatoes that went on the dinner table. If those who have gone ahead sacrificed to give it to us how much greater is our obligation to hand it unblimished to those generations who are coming after us.

Friendship Church has had two buildings, the first one was wrecked partially by wind, so it was decided to build a new church at the same location.

This was in June 1936. J. Clinton Ward was Pastor. The first services in the new church was held in April 1937. J. D. Gibson was the pastor at this time. The second church was dedicated Sept. 10th, 1944 by William A. Tyson Sr. Friendship Church was sent out three preachers. Later two went to the missionary Baptist Church, Will Cox and Lonnie Turner.

Tom McGarity was ordained a Local preacher of the Methodist church. He had a regular appointment one Sunday a month at his own church, Friendship. There is also another one making a preacher that joined the church at Friendship.

Friendship Church doesn't have a parsonage. We helped build the parsonage at Fayetteville and has helped with several more. We have been shifted from one circuit to another until it has no home. We have been on the Fayetteville, Iman, Jonesboro, Forrest Park, South Bend, and is now on the Morrow-Riverdale. Friendship was first in the South Atlanta District. It is now in the Griffin District.

W. J. Cox was the first Sunday School Supt. of Friendship Church, and he was also a trustee as long as he lived. He also served as steward a good many years.

W. L. Cox was also steward and trustee as long as he lived.

Friendship has had two flourishing Epworth Leagues in time. It doesn't have one at present.

Mrs. Dora Dumas was the first president of the missionary Society. Mrs. S. B. Lewis was the first president of the W. S. C. S. and is still president.

We have had many great church leaders to visit our church in time. Some that have stood out in my mind were: J. V. M. Morris, Uncle Nath Thompson, P. Y. Luther, Miss Bert Winter and others.

E. H. Wood and W. J. Debardeleben were outstanding as revivalist. Each took in 44 on profession of faith at a revival. Wood in 1894 and Debardeleben in 1914.

As our church books, secretary books, minutes and deeds were all burned in 1942 this history is written by one who was church secretary for many years as she remembers them and not by dates and figures.

The church has one acre of land deeded to North Georgia Conference and contains the "trust clause", also has one and one-half acres deeded to the trustees of Friendship church for cemetery purposes. The deeds are recorded at the courthouse in Fayetteville, Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs Dora Dumas

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