A HISTORY
OF
GARRETT'S CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

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Garrett's Chapel Methodist Church was organized in 1888, under the pastoral leadership of the Reverend Ben (?) Allen. The name Garrett is derived from the donor of the land, James A. Garrett. The legal indenture tells of the transaction made March 26, 1887 providing a deed for the land in the County of Walker, State of Georgia to Peter Wallace, W. B. Parrish, J. D. Wallin, J. A. Garrett and John Garrett and their successors. All of these were residents of Walker County and were trustees of the Garrett Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church. The transaction is further described as follows: "Witnesseth, That the said James A. Garrett for and in consideration of his desire to promote the wellfare (sic) of the Church, and to aid in the dissemination of Religious Truth, as well as in consideration of the sum of five Dollars, cash in hand paid by the said Trustees ...." The parcel of land being 70 yards by 70 yards was so transferred.

It is further provided, to have and to hold these bargained premises to the Trustees aforesaid and their successors in office for the use and benefit of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, subject to the Discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church and the Annual Conference in whose bounds the said premises are situated, Forever, In Fee Simple.

Garrett's Chapel is located in the northwestern part of Walker County, Georgia, about four miles southwest of Chickamauga, Georgia. The white frame building stands on a little hill in the ridge section. It faces the north, being parallel to famous Lookout Mountain which lies two or three miles to the west. It is in a thickly populated rural community.

The first church building was a frame "box" type structure
with the boards running vertically. It stood on the same ground as
the present building, but the entrance faced East.

The first building burned to the ground on Easter morning,
April 15, 1906. Mr. John F. Madaris states that he had the doubtful
honor of starting the fire which burned the building. He had come
early on that morning to build a fire for the Sunday School because
the weather was still cold and windy. When some sparks from the
chimney fell on the dry board roof, the wind soon spread them into a
destructive blaze. By the time the regular worshipers arrived the
fire was practically over, so the Sunday School and preaching services
were moved to the school house across the road. A collection was
taken that day for a new building.

Insurance was obtained on the new building from The Farmers'
Mutual Insurance Association, Home Office, Norcross, Georgia. The
contract was made to J. R. Hunter, Trustee for Garrett's Chapel on Sept
ember 24, 1907. The new building was made of wood but with a steel
roof and was insured for $300. Later, on August 30, 1910 the insurance
was increased $150"on account of improvements made on church house
and seats put in."

Earliest records of the church are not available. But it is
known that the Sunday School, Woman's work and youth work have been
organized for many years. The present (1953) church school enrollment
is 147. The Children's Division lists 34; the Youth number 26; and
the Adult Division has 37. The total raised for all causes last year
by the church school was $222.05. The Woman's Society of Christian
Service has a membership of 17. They paid to all causes last year the
amount of $39.

The first available record of the youth organization is an Epworth
League Report to the 2nd Quarterly Conference, July 20, 1930.
They reported 28 members with an average attendance of 22. The officers of the Cabinet were as follows: President-Frances Cobble, First Vice-President-Jack Hamilton, Fourth Vice-President-Lucille Autry, Secretary and Treasurer-Harris Akins. The Methodist Youth Fellowship now has twenty-six members.

The first year for which complete quarterly conference records are found is 1912. Garrett's alone paid the pastor $82.36. The entire Rossville Charge of which it was a part paid the District Superintendent $40.00; Conference Claimants $8.00; Episcopal Fund $3.00. The Charge paid the pastor $339. Ministerial support cost the entire charge $385. There is no record of benevolent giving, nor is the number of members indicated. Last year (1952) the church contributed for all causes $2801. Of this amount $1825 was for ministerial support and $161 for benevolences. There are now 146 members.

Garrett's has blessed unnumbered souls. It has sent out three full-time preachers. Rev. Raymond Carroll is now pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lakeview, Georgia, Catooga County. Rev. William B. Hamilton is a Methodist pastor who served for years in the Georgia Conference and now holds an influential church in Ohio. Rev. Clifford Hamilton is a Presbyterian minister at Conyers, Georgia. Other local part-time Baptist preachers starting at Garrett's were: Cecil Reese, Eugene Reese and John Bradley.

In recent years the church has received important improvements. During the pastorate of Reverend Frank Chastain and under his leadership, the building was extended southward to provide a large space for the choir and a nice Sunday School room on each side. Also, a basement was dug underneath the new section and half of the old section. A coal furnace was installed and now gives central heating. This work and improvements are valued at over $1500.
The church did not have a parsonage for many years. The pastors rented houses and the church had always been on a circuit. But in 1947 during Rev. Frank Chastain's pastorate, a nice white frame five-room house and two and one-half acres of land were purchased for the parsonage. This was bought at a cost of $2400. It is situated about one-half mile south of the church on a hill with a lovely view.

The cemetery was started before the church was built, but after the land was given. The son of J. A. Garrett, the man who gave the land, was the first person to be buried there. Enoch Boss was buried second at the first one's feet. The Garrett boy has no marker. During the spring of 1953 the cemetery was thoroughly cleaned, plowed and sowed in lawn grass. It now has a much improved appearance.

Garrett's Chapel was of course, a part of the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At different times it belonged to different districts as follows: Blue Ridge, Tallapoosa and Atlanta. It has been joined to various circuits from time to time, namely, Rossville (now Simpson Memorial), Rossville and LaFayette, Chickamauga, Wallaceville, Harrisburg, Bethel and Kensington before finally becoming a station in 1947. Since Methodist Union in Kansas City, Missouri, May 10, 1939, Garrett's has been in the Dalton District of the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church.

A list of former pastors and district superintendents will be given on the following pages.
The following is the list of pastors and district superintendents as supplied by Mr. John F. Hadaris, from Quarterly Conference and Annual Conference records. There are surely inaccuracies and missing links which are unavoidable due to lack of information and human error.

**PASTORS**

Rev. Ben (?) Allen - 1888-'89
Tom Turner
W. A. Stiles - 1897
Daniel W. Cook - 1906
John D. Anderson (died May 15, 1909)
B. F. Allen - 1912
W. A. Martin
F. F. Frisbie - 1913
J. E. Kenna - Nov. 15, 1913
B. J. Williams - Jan. 10, 1914
T. N. Crumpton - 1915
T. A. Morgan - 1916
Emory B. Aycock - 1919
M. D. Perry - 1921
F. L. Wade - 1925
D. R. Ash
C. C. Bailey
C. O. Mulkey - 1928-29
T. J. Freeman - 1929-'30
B. A. Chastain - 1930,'31,'32,'33
Bishop L. Chastain - 1934, '35
James D. Posey

W. A. Hughes - 1937
Talley Crane - 1938
J. Ellis Brashear - Nov.'39-Nov.'41
Roy J. Donaldson - 1942
Robert Stewart - 1943, '44
Frank Chastain - 1944,'45,'46,'47, '48
Vernon Windom - 1949 - '50
J. F. Gladney - 1951
Charles C. Handrix - 1952
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

James L. Fowler (died Dec. 21, 1902)
Robert H. Robb - 1897-1901
William A. Parsons - 1902-1904
Emory F. Dean - 1906-1908
F. L. Cochran - 1911-1918
J. B. Crippen - 1918-1924
Herbert H. Bowen - 1925-1930
Earnest Dixie Carlock - 1932-1939
Joseph Sims Thrailkill - 1939-1941
Charles Merrill Lipham - 1942-1947
Norman Pryor Manning - 1948-1951
Haskel Cade Stratton - 1951-1952