HISTORY OF THE GRAYSON METHODIST CHURCH
GRAYSON, GEORGIA

This church was known as Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The name was given it at the time of organization in 1884. The town of Grayson has grown up around it, and it is now being rightly called the Grayson Methodist Church.

The first members of this church, those who were present at its organization were: George M. Brand, Mrs. George M. Brand, George W. Cates, Mrs. George W. Cates, Mrs. Jane Head, Miss Elena Head, Mrs. Carrie Johnson, Miss Mary Langley, R. E. Browning, Mrs. R. E. Browning, Robert Frisby, Mrs. Robert Frisby, James Conner, Mrs. James Conner.

The original members held their first services in a brush arbor, across the street from the present residence of Mrs. W. O. Cates, at a road intersection about one fourth mile from our present church building.

Our church building was erected in 1885 and was valued at that time at $2,000.

M. E. Eakes was its first pastor and served from 1885 to 1887. He was followed by S. D. Evans, 1887-1889, G.T.G. Edwards, 1889-1891, George M. Brand, 1891-1893, Rev. Hargrove, 1893-1896, John Austin, 1896-1898, S.H. Braswell, 1898-1900, Rev. Taylor, 1900-1901, Lucian Roper, 1901-1903, forty members were added; H. W. Morris, 1903-1904, two members were added; W. W. Gaines, 1904-1906, twenty nine members were added; W. O. Butler, 1906-1908, nine members were added; S. H. Dimon, 1908-1909, twenty six members added.
The earliest available record of our Sunday School indicates that it was organized on the fourth Sunday in March 1910.

J. W. Ethridge, Superintendent. Teachers in the Sunday School were: George W. Jacobs, Mrs. Elena (Head) Petty, John Elery Jacobs and Mrs. Mattie Rhodes. Secretary of the Sunday School was Miss Blanch Jacobs.

In 1911 this church held services once a month and paid its pastor a salary of $100.00. The church contributed to all causes about $175.00 annually.

The following is a list of members of this church in 1911:

Homer Johnston, Eula Johnston, Andrew Johnston, Plenny Johnston,
Mrs. W. A. Cooper, Mrs. M. P. Pratt, H. P. Oliver, Mrs. H. P. Oliver,
Miss Blanch Jacobs, and Mrs. Mattie Rhodes.

The First Quarterly Conference in 1912 for Grayson Circuit,
Gainesville District, North Georgia Conference was held at Grayson
January 6, 1912. Rev. Luke G. Johnson was Presiding Elder.
F. A. Ragsdale was Pastor. The following members of Grayson Methodist
Church were present: J. S. Oliver, Steward and Trustee; John Elery Jacobs,
Steward and Trustee; G. W. Cates, Steward; G. P. Johnston, Steward;
T. G. Chapman, Church Leader. John Elery Jacobs was elected Secretary
of the Conference. J. W. Ethridge was elected Superintendent of the
Sunday School.

Fourth Quarterly Conference was held at Zoar, October 5, 1912.
T. G. Chapman was elected Secretary. Stewards elected for Grayson were:
John Elery Jacobs was elected Recording Steward and District Steward.
J. W. Ethridge was elected Sunday School Superintendent. T. G. Chapman
Assistant Superintendent. Trustees elected were: R. H. Cates, G. W. Cates,
J. S. Oliver.

Our pastors have been:

F. A. Ragsdale, 1911-1913

J. S. Askew, 1921-1923
R. J. Broyles, 1923-1925
R. A. Coleman, 1925-1926
C. W. Fruit, 1926-1927
T. E. Sherwood, 1927-1928
Sam Daily, 1928-1929
W. H. Venable, 1929-1930
J. B. Smith, 1930-1933
In Church Conference minutes December 27, 1931, Mrs. Elena Petty was elected Chairman, Ladies Missionary Society. This may be the date of organization of the Ladies Missionary Society in our Church. No record is available prior to that date. The organization of this department, now called the Women's Society of Christian Service, is one of the greatest blessings to our church, because today, this group, even though their membership is small, is the most active group in our church. This is the group which keeps our church cleaned, places flowers in our church, buys new equipment and furnishings for our church, in fact, they do the big jobs in our church and ask other members to help with the little jobs. Miss Gracie Jacobs is president of the W. S. C. S.; Mrs. J. J. Cofer, Vice-President; Mrs. Inez Cooper, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Emily Britt, Recording Secretary; Mrs. J. M. Doss, Sr., Secretary, Spiritual Life; Mrs. Kate Tribble, Supply Secretary; Mrs. Woodie Tribble, Chairman, Social Relations; Mrs. Josephine Cooper, Secretary, Children's Work; Mrs. Alma Bennett, Secretary, Literature and Publications; and Miss Kate Jacobs has served a number of years as Chairman of the office of arranging dinner appointments for pastors and their families with members of our church.
Our young people's Epworth League may have been organized in June 1929, because the first available report appeared in the minutes of the Church Conference on July 7, 1929. In the minutes of the Church Conference March 22, 1931, the report of the Epworth League was that we had met our pledge of $25.00 for helping to support one student, in the cause of missions. The young people's department is now called Methodist Youth Fellowship. Miss Marion Bell Henderson is President. Miss Beverly Cooper, Secretary and Treasurer; Miss Ann Cooper, Commission Service; Miss Rebecca Mason, Recreation Chairman; and Miss Rose Downs, World Fellowship.

The Stewards of our church are as follows: J. J. Cofer, Chairman; John M. Does, Sr., Claud Long; Otis Biggers; Frank J. Henderson; Hoke S. Norton; Marion P. Henderson.

The Trustees of our church are: W. A. Henderson, Jack Tribble and Ernest Henderson.

Hoke S. Norton is our church Treasurer.

Our Sunday School Superintendent is John M. Doss, Jr., Mrs. W. S. Ford, Secretary and Treasurer and our Sunday School teachers are:

Mrs. Woodie Tribble, Adult Class; Mrs. Jack Tribble, Young People; Miss Hazel Jacobs, Junior Class; Mrs. Ruby Henderson, Primary Class; Mrs. Emily Britt, Beginners.

Miss Gracie Jacobs is our Sunday School and Church pianist.
The following is a list of members of the Grayson Methodist Church, in 1950:

Mrs. Alma (Briscoe) Bennett
Otis Biggers
Mrs. Laura Johnson Biggers
Robert Biggers
T. M. Brady
Mrs. T. M. Brady
Mrs. Emily Hale Britt
Mrs. J. C. Brand
Erskin Buchanan
Mrs. Ida Bennett Cates
E. A. Cates
Mrs. Mary Tuck Cates
Mrs. Maud Martin Cates
Miss Geraldine Cooper
Calvin C. Cooper
Mrs. Josephine Cown Cooper
Hoke Cooper
Lamar Cooper
Mrs. Inez Starnes Cooper
Miss Ann Cooper
Miss Beverly Cooper
W. A. Cooper
J. J. Cofer
Mrs. Effie Brooks Cofer
Horace Cofer
John Wesley Cofer
Mrs. Dorothy Seay Cofer
Floyd Cofer
John M. Doss, Sr.
Mrs. Odessa Gower Doss
John M. Doss, Jr.
Mrs. J. W. Ethridge
Mrs. Estalee Cates Ethridge
Cline O. Ford
Mrs. Ruth Ethridge Gaffney
Miss Martha Hawthorne
Miss Althea Hawthorne
W. A. Henderson
Marion Henderson
Mrs. Ruby Durden Henderson
Miss Marion Bell Henderson
William Henderson
Ernest Henderson
Frank Henderson
Mrs. Dorothy Moon Henderson
Raymond Henderson
Mrs. Willie Hudson
John Elery Jacobs
Miss Gracie Jacobs
Mac Jacobs
Miss Kate Jacobs
Miss Hazel Jacobs
Mrs. Carolyn Mason Jacobs
R. L. Johnson
Mrs. Sallie Jackson Johnson
William Johnson
Mrs. Mary Carolyn Doss Johnson
Harold Johnson
H. A. Long
Mrs. H. A. Long
Claud Long
Mrs. Lizzie Mae Robertson Long
Aubrey Long
Mrs. Myrdie Carroll Long
Norris Long
Miss Marilyn Mawon
Miss Rebecca Mason
Miss Patsy Nunnally
Hoke Norton
Mrs. Louella Long Norton
Mrs. Elena Head Petty
Mrs. Myrtle Rowe Rawlins
Sammy Rawlins
George Rawlins
M. A. Still
Mrs. Estelle Reeves Still
Mrs. Thelma Still Hudson
Mrs. Runelle Still Drewry
Miss Ruth Simonton
Miss Rubye John Simonton
Mrs. Jewell Petty Smith
Mrs. Woodie Tribble
Billy Tribble
Jack Tribble
Mrs. Kate Cofield Tribble
Mrs. Catherine Long Thomason
Miss Clara Williams
Miss Barbara Williams
This is a personal reference:

My father, John Elery Jacobs, who passed away on March 13, 1950, furnished the historical facts copied by the writer in this history. It would have been impossible for me to have written this history, if he had not written and preserved these facts in an excellent manner.

Because my father lived during the period of the history presented here, and because he actually wrote this history for me, these are facts copied from a Tribute to him which appeared in The Atlanta Journal- The Atlanta Constitution, March 11, 1951, written by Alvin Robertson;

"Micah 6:8 'What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to walk humbly with thy God?' This scriptural passage is seldom exemplified better than it has been by the life of John Elery Jacobs. His humble walk with his God has been a by-word with his family, his friends and associates through the years.

Mr. Jacobs served as Superintendent of the Grayson Methodist Sunday School for over twenty years, as a member of the Board of Stewards for twenty-five years, part of that time as Chairman. He also served as a Trustee of this church for thirty years and was a Trustee at the time of his death."

Respectfully submitted by;

(Miss) Hazel Jacobs,
Grayson, Georgia
June 3, 1951