THE HEPZIBAH METHODIST CHURCH

1912 AUGUSTA DISTRICT

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE BROTHERSVILLE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH

This history was compiled by Mrs. Hermon W. Wood (nee Lillian Clark)
and Mrs. Laura Layton Rhodes.
The Brothersville Methodist Episcopal Church, South, later known as the Hephzibah Methodist Episcopal Church South, and now as the Hephzibah Methodist Church, was organized in March 1862. The present building was erected in 1855. It was dedicated in 1854 by Bishop George F. Pierce.

The land on which it was built was given by Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson, one of three brothers for whom the Brothersville community was named. There were between sixty and seventy members during the first few years. The men sat on one side of the church and the women on the other side. Among the first names enrolled were the Andersons, Busas, Cadles, Carwells, Clark, Greshams, Malones, Murphys, Rhodes, Walkers and others. As the old-time residents of Brothersville died and moved away and the village of Hephzibah began to grow around the Hephzibah High School, which was founded in 1860, it was deemed wise to move the church from the country to the village of Hephzibah. It was moved on rollers by Mr. Kendrick, who was paid $638.00 for the job. It took a month to move it and it was placed on the present site on April 12, 1890. The lot was given by the Hephzibah Baptist Association.

The gallery where slaves had worshipped was removed and the belfry and the recess for the pulpit were added. The interior of the top was ceiled, the walls plastered, the building was painted and some new furnishings were bought. The pews are original.

In 1926 the Sunday School rooms were added when Rev. E. P. Rubanks was the pastor. In 1930 the front porch and steps were remodeled by members of the Renable Class.

In the pulpit have stood many powerful preachers of the gospel, who have used the same Bible throughout the years. The Bible was presented by Mr. Lindsey Warren. The Bible was rebound, rededicated and presented to the church on January 15, 1950 by Mrs. Lillian Clark Wood, Mrs. Gertrude Clark Mann, and Dr. W. Edward Clark in loving memory of their aunt, Miss Ella Gertrude Clark who was born on Sept. 2, 1850. Miss Ella was a life long member of the church. She was church organist for many years, and was treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society for forty-five years.

The names of the pastors who have served this church are as follows:


B.F. Farriss
Many fine men and women have gone out from this church to be a blessing in other communities. Two preachers have gone out from its ranks, Rev. Milton A. Clark, who for thirty years was a missionary to the Indians in Oklahoma, and the Rev. H. Clark, now retired member of the North Georgia Conference, who at one time was Presiding Elder of the Augusta District. This church is fortunate in having the roll of all who have ever been members of this church, and all the Quarterly Conference records. This is due to the fact that Dr. Samuel B. Clark was the first Recording steward, and this office has remained in the Clark family through the years to the present time.

The church Sunday School was organized in 1883, and the following members have served as superintendents: A. R. Napier, Walter A. Clark, James W. Baxley, J. R. Clark, Rev. W. I. Delph, S. R. Clark, Ralph N. Smith, Henry B. Turber, Charles E. Heney, C. W. Raborn, Clarence A. Heney, W. E. Heney, J. D. Dickson Jr., Pete Fulcher, and Charles W. Matthews.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1882. The following have served as president of the society: Mrs. Edwina Clark Baxley, Mrs. B. L. Hall, Mrs. Carrie Haynie, Mrs. W. I. Delph, Mrs. W. H. Baxley, Mrs. Ferdie Richards, Mrs. John Murphy, Mrs. C. W. Raborn, Mrs. H. W. Wood, Mrs. E. M. Green, Mrs. J. D. Dickson, Mrs. H. W. Wood, Mrs. A. E. Scott, Mrs. H. W. Wood, Mrs. J. B. Bartson, Mrs. T. D. Whiteside. Throughout these years there has only been three treasurers, Miss Ella Gertrude Clark, Miss Mary Ella Hughes, and Mrs. Laura Layton Rhodes.

Hephzibah is a beautiful little village nestling among her trees and holding in her very heart the school and her two churches, and on the Sabbath mornings as the church bells ring their call to worship, we think of the Biblical meaning of the word Hephzibah: Isaiah 62:4. "--but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee."