HISTORY

of

GRiffin HIGHLAND and POMONA METHODIST CHURCH
The Highland Methodist church was organized in the spring of 1927. Rev. L.M. Twiggs, District Superintendent of the Griffin District, organized the church. For a number of years services were held in the school auditorium along with the Baptist. After several years the Baptist people decided to build themselves a building of their own. After the withdrawal of the sister organization the Methodist people continued to hold services in the school auditorium.

Since its organization the church has been a member of three different Charges and Circuits. It was first on a charge to itself with its first pastor being Rev. J. M. Crowe. They had service once a month. Its next pastor was Rev. J. W. Talburt. The organization and growth of the church is due largely to these two men. In 1930 the Highland Methodist Church and East Griffin Methodist church was formed into a charge. Rev. J.A. Lanford was the first pastor of this Charge. In 1931 and 1932 Rev. J.W. Lee served as pastor of this Charge. Each church had two preaching Sundays a month.

In 1933 the church was placed on the Griffin Circuit and remained on this Circuit until 1941. Rev. J.S. Hill was the Pastor from 1933 to 1936. Rev. R.M. Chambers was the Pastor on the Griffin Circuit in 1937, and Rev. R.W. Allison was the Pastor of this Circuit in 1939 and 1940.

In 1941 a new charge was formed which was known as the Highland Charged. This Charged consisted of Highland, Pomona, and County Line Methodist churches. Rev. Foster D. Smith was its first pastor; he was here from 1941 to 1944.
It was during the pastorate of Rev. Smith that the membership of Highland Church recognized the need of a church building. Much credit can be given to Brother Smith for planting the spark in the hearts of the people. It was about 1942 that Brother Smith got the building campaign underway setting one Sunday each month aside as Building Fund Day, and a goodly amount was raised this way. During the war this plan was dropped for reason unknown. It was during the pastorate of Rev. W.W. Byington that the church took another step toward construction of a church building. Rev. Byington followed Rev. Smith as pastor in 1945. In the spring of 1947 the Board of Trustees purchased two nice lots on Highway 41, Avalon Subdivision, for the purpose of building the church. The church is located four Miles North of Griffin at Cromptons Highland Mills.

In 1947 Rev. J. R. Thompson became the Pastor of the charge. In September 14 of that year an extensive building campaign began and about twelve hundred dollars was raised that day. A program of finance was set up and the fourth Sunday was set aside as Building Fund Day. This day is still held as Building Fund Day. Construction began in September, 1947. Bad weather and shortages of Materials caused much delay in the construction of the building. On the Fourth Sunday in April, 1948 this proud congregation moved into their beautiful church. After 22 years the dreams and hopes of the people became a reality.

The Building was constructed by Mobley and Son Construction Company of Griffin. Mr. Hollen Mobley part owner of this company is a member of the church. The church is a frame structure with white asbestos. It had four church school rooms. It is a beautiful building.
In 1948 County Line Methodist church was taken off the charge, so the charge became the Highland-Pomona Charge. Highland had three preaching Sundays a month. Rev. Tasker D. Johnson became the pastor in 1948. In 1949 Rev. Marion Sherrill became the pastor of the church. The congregation began to realize that more Church School space was needed, so in 1951 a small annex has been added to the building.

There have been three men who have gone from this church into the Ministry. They are Rev. Fred Stinson, who is now serving Walker Memorial Methodist church in Orlando, Fla.; Rev. Marlyn Barker, who is now a student Illif School of Theology in Denver, Col. and also serving a church in Wyoming; Rev. Herschal Hudgins, a student at Candler School of Theology and serving as pastor of the White charge near Cartervilles; he is a member of the Florida Conference.

This church looks to the future with high hopes. It now has a membership of 94 members, but it hopes to grow and become a larger church.

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Church Historians.