HILLCREST METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. J.C. Adams, in 1942, had been passing by Hillcrest for 15 or 16 years enroute to LaGrange. Those many years caused him to notice that there was not a single church between Franklin and LaGrange. From this came the desire for a church in the Hillcrest community.

In May, 1942, Our Pastor, Rev. J.C. Adams and Rev. J.K. Brown held a meeting in the Hillcrest School. It was planned to organize a church at that time, but the plans were not carried out. The work lay dormant for two years.

In May 1944, Rev. W.M. Twiggs, the District Superintendent and Rev. Adams held a tent meeting. From this tent meeting, and the previous meeting held in the school building has come the present church.

Our first member, Charlotte Estes joined the church during the meeting held in the school, before there was even an organization. She was nine years old at the time. Mrs. Noah Gore was the first to be received into the church.

The late Mrs. Render Morgan gave us the lot on which the church now stands to build on. The Church members and friends along with some hired labor began work on the Church. The timber in the church was donated by Jack Ringer, B.A. Johnson, and Mrs. John Lovelace. The Bricks for the Foundation were donated by J.B. Gasaway.

There is an interesting story behind the lumber that is in the church. At the time when the church was being built, the war was at its height. Brother Adams went before a board in Atlanta to find out just how much he would be able to spend on the church. A thousand dollars was the limit, and the lumber would have to be sawed by a mill which no more than 50,000 feet of lumber were sawed in the span of year. This would have to be a mill that had not run for sometime, because an average mill saws 50,000 feet per week. A mill of this sort was found at Big Springs, Georgia.

Shortly after the meeting in May, J.R. Hall, W.J. Ringer and J.O. Barnes were appointed to the building committee. Money for the building was gotten from various sources.

We held our first meeting in the church on the fifth Sunday in Oct. 1944. We were very happy to have the meeting in our church although it was only in the first stage of construction. We only had a sub-flooring, temporary roof, no windows, and we had only a few chairs.

A Sunday School was organized Nov. 5, 1944 and B.A. Johnson was appointed Superintendent. He rendered a great service until this past summer when he felt that he should turn it over to a younger person. Jackie Wilson served efficiently until B.A. Johnson resumed the task. Sixty-Three people were present at
The first meeting, and since then we have continued to grow.

A Methodist Youth Fellowship was later organized with Martha Worley as counselor. The Young People in the community have taken a great part in this organization and are doing a great work. Since Martha went away to school, Novis Allen has done a wonderful job keeping this organization active.

The Women's Society of Christian Service was organized under the direction of Mrs. A.B. Anderson of Hogansville. Mrs. J.R. Hall was the first president. Since then, Mrs. Noah Gore, Mrs. J.B. Estes, Mrs. B.A. Johnson, and the present president, Mrs. Fred Clark have served in that office. It has been a very active organization and has been instrumental in raising a large amount of the funds for the church.

The first Board of Stewards was made up of J.R. Hall, W.J. Ringer, J.B. Gasaway, and B.A. Johnson. Since then J.B. Estes, Jackie Wilson, Jim Hall, J.L. Flournoy and Ed Brooks have been added to this board. This board has been efficient in its work.

The cooperation of all the members has helped to make the church what it is today by the backing up of our pastors, Rev. J.C. Adams and Rev. F.W. Waddell. The good works of Brother Grady Allen deserve mention.

Four years after the organization of the church, the third full-time church worker came out. We boast two ministers, J. Alton Johnson, and Vicente Rodriguez; and one Youth Worker, Mrs. Martha Johnson Worley.