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*Hiram - Bethel Charge*

HIRAM METHODIST CHURCH

HIRAM, GEORGIA.

ROME-----DISTRICT

JANUARY, 1, 1951.

Valuation of Church-----\$12,000.00

Valuation of Parsonage-----\$ 5,000.00

Total Membership-----90

Church School enrollment-----30

W.S.C.S. enrollment-----12

M.Y.F. enrollment-----10

Records compiled from old church register's,  
Sunday School record books, Recording Secretary's  
books of W.S.C.S. and The Conference Records  
at Wesley Memorial Church.

Mrs. Harvie E. Bickers, Historian.

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BISHOPS:

Warren A. Candler-----1915-----1923  
Murrah-----1923-----1924  
Darlington-----1924-----1927  
Beauchamp-----1927-----1931  
J. M. Moore-----1931-----1936  
W. N. Ainsworth-----1936-----1939  
J. L. Decell-----1939-----1940  
Arthur G. Moore-----1940-----

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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS:

J. H. Eakes-----	1915-----	1918
J. R. King-----	1918-----	1921
W. T. Irvine-----	1921-----	1927
J. B. Erwin-----	1927-----	1928
G. L. King-----	1928-----	1931
J. W. O. McKibben-----	1931-----	1936
Harvey C. Holland-----	1936-----	1940
W. H. Laprade-----	1940-----	1944
B. Frank Pim-----	1944-----	1947
Wills M. Jones-----	1947-----	1950
Delma L. Hagood-----	1950-----	

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PASTORS:

G. B. Barton-----	Nov. 1915-----	1918
Thomas M. Elliott-----	1918-----	1919
M. M. Walraven-----	1919-----	1921
W. A. Woodruff-----	1921-----	1922
G. W. Ridley-----	1922-----	1923
O. J. Withrow-----	1923-----	1927
W. E. Brown-----	1927-----	1928
E. C. Swetnam-----	1928-----	1931
J. W. Stephens-----	1931-----	1936
J. B. Gresham-----	1936-----	1937
H. Kirby Krams-----	Nov. 1937-----	Sept. 1939
G. C. Boye-----	Sept. 1939-----	Nov. 1939
A. M. Sibley-----	Nov. 1939-----	Nov. 1940
Hollis D. Brigman-----	Nov. 1940-----	Nov. 1941
Noland P. Jacobson-----	Nov. 1941-----	Aug. 1942
Paul S. Jones-----	Aug. 1942-----	Aug. 1943
W. C. Strickland-----	Aug. 1943-----	Nov. 1943
D. B. Shalnutt-----	Nov. 1943-----	Nov. 1945
W. Glenn Dorris-----	Nov. 1945-----	July. 1948
R. V. Ozment-----	July. 1948-----	June 1949
Herchel H. Sheets-----	June 1949	



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In the year 1915, a group of members of the Flint Hill Church decided a more central location for their church was needed. Under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. G. B. Barton, a site was selected in the city of Hiram. Five members met and organized the church. Namely: W. F. Byrd, Mrs. W. F. Byrd, S. L. Laird, Mrs. S. L. Laird and S.M.P. Clonts.

This meeting was held in the Lodge Hall. Services continued to be held there and under a shed rood adjoining the store buildings of the town.

Before the church building was completed, several revival meeting's were held there under a large tent. Some of these revivals were led by Dr. Thomas M. Elliott, Rev. Will Hill, Rev. Sam Haynes and Rev. Tom Morgan.

In 1922, Rev. W. H. LaPrade dedicated the church, with Rev. W. A. Woodruff as pastor.

In the early years of the church, preaching was held only one Sunday each month. The charge consisted of Dallas, Hiram, Bethel, Nebo, and Mt. Tabor. Hiram paid approximately \$200.00 per year.

In 1937, the charge was changed by Dallas being made a full station, and Smyrna and Mt. Zion being given to the Hiram Charge. In 1942, Hiram-Bethel charge was formed with preaching services being held two Sunday's each month.

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During the year 1941, with Rev. Hollis D. Brigman as pastor, a new heating system was installed in the church at a cost of \$513.00. This gave heat for the Sunday School rooms, which before this time had no heat.

Up to this time the pastor was paid approximately \$300.00 per year. A gradual increase in salary brought the amount up to \$500.00 by the year 1946. Another increase in salary brought the budget up to \$900.00 in the year 1948.

During the pastorage of Rev. Glenn Dorris 1945-1948, the church was redecorated on the interior. New pews were installed at a cost of \$1200.00. The church was rewired and new light fixtures were donated by Clark Thread Company.

At the beginning of the year 1948, with Rev. R. V. Ozment the pastor, the salary was raised to \$750.00 bringing the budget of the church up to \$1,100.00.

For several years a movement was under way for a new parsonage. But due to shortage of material and labor in the war years, nothing had been done. But in November 1948, the trustee's of the church met and voted to build a new parsonage on the old site. The board consisted of J. M. Harshbarger, J. K. Moon, Harvie E. Bickers, W. C. Dailey and N. N. Lester.

It was decided that Hiram would build the Parsonage and Bethel would furnish it. At this time the parsonage was rented and the pastor was not living on the charge.

At The Annual Conference June, 1949, Rev. Herchel H. Sheets was

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sent to Hiram and wanted to live on the charge. The parsonage was vacated late in July, and was immediately torn down and work began on a new building. By the end of December, the building was near enough completed for the pastor and his wife to move into.

At this time it is completed, except the water system, and that is in progress. The house was built with material from the old building valued at \$300.00, and approximately \$2,300.00 cash and donated material with donated labor. There is no indebtedness on the buildings.

Two young ministers in the North Georgia Conference, have come from homes of charter members of the church. The Rev. Samuel L. Laird of Emory University, and Rev. W. F. Byrd, Jr. a student in the Emory School of Theology.

During the history of the church, the church has been decorated only twice for weddings. On September, 11, 1937, Miss Bessie Clonts was married to Harvie E. Bickers, with Rev. J. W. Stephens performing the wedding ceremony.

On June, 12, 1950, Miss Sara DeFreece was married to Rev. Sanford McDonald, with Rev. McLowry Elrod and Rev. Parks Segars Officiating.

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CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Samuel L. Laird Sr. -----  
W. G. Dorris-Sr-----  
W. F. Byrd Sr.-----  
W. A. Abercrombie Sr.-----1922--1925  
W. J. Arnold Sr.-----1925--1940  
N. N. Lester-----Oct. 1940 Aug. 1942  
Miss Sibyl Shipp-----Aug. 1942 Oct. 1942  
Paul G. Laird-----Oct. 1942 Oct 1946  
Joe Moon-----Oct. 1946 July 1948  
N. N. Lester -----July 1948

No complete records have been found of the early years of the Sunday School. Records for the past year show that \$150.00 was raised and spent during the years work.

Several people have given long years as teachers in the Sunday School. Namely: W. F. Byrd, Mrs. W. F. Byrd, Mrs. W. G. Dorris, Mrs. Nina Driggers, W. A. Abercrombie, P. G. Laird, Miss Gemae Earnest, J. M. Harshbarger, H. E. Bickers, and C. H. Herring.



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WOMANS SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The Woman's work in the church began long before the church was completed. The enrollment was small, but a very active group.

An active Missionary Society was held until the year 1922. No record has been found from that time until 1935, when under the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Stephens, a new Society was organized. Again this work became inactive.

In August 1946, Miss Bert Winter came to our church and organized a new society. Mrs. C. H. Herring was elected President, and held the office until 1949, when Mrs. J. T. Thompson Jr. was elected President. Since the beginning of this Society we have held almost a perfect attendance record.

Records show that approximately \$20.00 was sent to the Treasurer the first years work. In 1922, \$75.00 was sent to the treasurer.

Last year the total for all causes was \$84.00

Miss Kate Cooper has visited our group on two different occasions.

Much help has been given through Miss Bert Winter who for a number of years worked in our district.

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METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP---YOUNG PEOPLE

Very few young people are active in the work of the church due to the small membership of the church.

The Epworth League met regularly during the late twenties and early thirties.

At the present time the young people meet regularly each Monday night at the parsonage for a period of devotional study and is followed by recreation.

They attend monthly council meeting's, and The Sub-district meeting's also monthly. They are represented at Summer camp's and work-shop's.

Some great work has come out of the Bible School's that have been held in the church in recent years under the leadership of the pastors with Miss Dan Eubanks and Miss Bert Winter, District workers.

Probably the largest School in the History of the church was in the year 1946, under the direction of the pastor Rev. Glenn Dorris assisted by Rev. Hugh McKee, Frank Dorris and Miss Sara DeFreece. This brought about the greatest increase in sunday school enrollment and church attendance of anything on record.

No great amount of money has been raised at any time in the work of the young people but what has been raised has been spent in a very useful way, as sending boy's and girl's to camp during summer months. Approximately \$50.00 was raised last year.