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History of Holly Springs Methodist Church

Maysville Charge

In 1883 five acres of land was donated by Luke T. Watkins for the purpose of building a church for his community. A log house was first built at a spring below the present building. Around this spring grew some holly trees. From this came the name Holly Springs. As the church grew in membership a lumber building was erected in front of where the cemetery now is. Finally the present building was built and painted inside and outside.

The first lumber building was used for a school building many years after the church was moved into the present building.

We have a record saying the attendance at Sunday School was twenty for the year 1883. Eight of these were not members of any church.

The Pastor's Salary for the circuit was \$690. Holly Springs was assessed \$100. At the first quarterly conference of 1883, the quarterly collection for Holly Springs was two dollars, just to show how scarce money was at that time.

It was discussed and agreed that prayer meeting would begin. The church insisted that parents as well as children attend Sunday School. J. R. Parker was then pastor. February 12, 1887, no advocate. May 7, 1887, there were five subscribers to the Wesleyan Christian Advocate.

J. S. Embry as pastor was followed by George W. Duvall. Sunday School was suspended when W. T. Hamby came as pastor in 1896. During his two years' pastorate, Sunday School was renewed. Pastor's salary was raised from \$100 to \$135 and there were seven Advocate subscribers.

J. R. Speck followed as pastor in 1898. Sunday School and prayer meeting were very prosperous. Sunday School has continued to the present time.

Then came F. W. McClesky as pastor, followed by A. F. Branham, J. D. Turner, and A. D. Echols. When the Woman's Missionary Society was first organized, Mrs. W. R. Hancock was president. The Epworth League was later organized. Now the church has an organization for adults, young people and children. Sunday School rooms in the basement have been added.

Holly Springs Church has been able to send out three prominent preachers into the North Georgia Conference: A. P. Watkins, now a superannuate; B. W. Hancock; and W. T. Watkins, who is now Bishop in the Louisville Area.

The following have been Holly Springs pastors: J. R. Parker, J. B. Allen, James S. Embry, George W. Duvall, W. T. Hamby, J. R. Speck, F. W. McClesky, H. T. Branham, J. D. Turner, A. D. Echols, J. T. Lowe, W. W. Brinsfield, H. S. Smith, J. S. L. Sappington, G. L. King, L. P. Huckaby, A. A. Tilly, A. S. Hutchinson, W. A. Woodruff, C. B. Drake, O. J. Withrow, Burnette, Jesse Warwick, W. L. Brackman, George P. Gary, J. L. Hall. C. T. Gray, W. M. Holt, Ben Blackburn, G. T. Shell, Hugh McKee.

Mrs. Edgar Hawkins
Historian