

64

## HISTORY OF JERSEY CHURCH

Jersey Methodist Church was originally called "Brown's Chapel" and was organized about 1824, which would be 127 years ago. ✓

It was built by George R. Brown, grandfather of Miss Tinie Brown and Mrs. J. R. Radford of Monroe, and others of the community as was the custom of that time. ✓

It was a one room log building and was located at the top of the hill in front of the George Brown homestead about one and one half miles south of Jersey.

Later Brown's Chapel was moved to Jersey on the site of where it now stands. After several years the foundation and floor began giving way and the present church was built in 1872 by the Gibbs Brothers, Contractors of Social Circle. Rev. J.O.A. Radford, one of the staunch members of Brown's Chapel helped in building this church.

Since there was no church at that time for the colored people a balcony was built especially for them. ✓

At one time there were only these four members on roll: Mrs. Tine Ragan, Mrs. Nancy Abercrombie, Mrs. Mary Brown, Mrs. Smith. ✓

A Rev. Ferribee was one of the early pastors. Some of the pastors of Jersey Methodist Protestant Church were as follows: Rev. J. Johnson; Rev. E.J. Beadles; Rev. G.W. Morris; Rev. J.A. McGarity served in 1893 and at other times; Rev. J.C. Patrick served 1898 to 1899; Rev. J.O.A. Radford served in 1899 and many other years; Rev. E. B.

53

Aycock, 1903-'04; Rev. C. B. McDaniel, 1904-'10; Rev. J.A. McGarity, 1910-'11; Rev. J. McD. Radford, 1911-'14.

Pastors of the Methodist Episcopal Church<sup>South</sup> were as follows: Rev. Ragsdale, of Conyers, 1914-'15; Rev. K. Reed, 1915-'17; Rev. J. T. Robins, 1917-'21; Rev. T.M. Elliott, 1921-'23; Rev. Peter Manning, 1923-'25; Rev. J. M. Thompson, 1925-'27; Rev. W. E. Almon, 1927-'28; Rev. J.J. Sneed, 1928-'29; Rev. R. W. Stone, 1929-'30; Rev. N.O.L. Powell, 1930-'31, with G.H.C. Stone as supply; Rev. Arthur Kinsey, 1931-'38; Rev. T.E. Sherwood, 1938-'40; Rev. J.R. Phillips, 1940-'41; Rev. Gordon Thompson, Jr., 1941-'45; Rev. P.V. Hall, 1945-'47; Rev. J.P. Nix, 1947-'50; Rev. Robert F. Nay, 1950-'51.

Brown's Chapel was in Jersey Circuit, and was placed in Walton Circuit in 1909 and continued there until it joined Methodist Episcopal in 1914, at which time, it became the Jersey Methodist Episcopal and joined the Social-Circle-Rutledge Charge and remained on this charge for nine years.

In 1923 it joined the Newton Circuit and in 1930 transferred to Monroe Circuit. In 1931 it was placed on Walton Charge of Decatur-Oxford District.

Many of these have served as stewards and trustees of the church: J.A.McGarity, J.L. Mobley, J.G.Smith, John Beam, R.S.McGarity, J.L.McGarity, Mrs. John Gerdine, W.G. Blasingame, W.R.McGarity, John Everette, Miss Tinie Brown. Mrs. W.G. Blasingame and Mrs. John Beam served as church secretaries.

Presiding Elders, or District Superintendents who have served are as follows: Dr. Elam F. Dempsey, B.F.



Frazier, Rev. Wallace Rogers, Rev. Henry Jones, Rev. C.L. Middlebrooks, Dr. Edward G. Mackay, and others whose names we can't recall.

In November, 1905 and 1912, there were two Annual Conferences held at this church. Big preparations were made for the first Conference as a big crowd and distinguished preachers and delegates were expected to attend. Some families entertained as many as eight delegates in their home. Hams were baked, chickens were fried, and cakes cooked in preparation for the dinners that were spread at the church for three days at each Conference.

As far back as can be remembered, there has been a good Sunday School. Among the Superintendents, there were some who have passed away years ago: J.L. Mobley, Ernest Harris, J.A. McGarity, R.S. McGarity. Those still with us are: J.L. McGarity, J. Blasingame, Jr., J.B. Blasingame(?) Since 1934, with the exception of six months during which John Blasingame served as Supt., Ethlene McGarity has been in charge of the Sunday School work.

Among the teachers who have helped to carry on the Sunday School since the early years are as follows: Miss Mattie Radford who passed away many years ago. Also Miss Denie Abercrombie. Those with us yet are: Mrs. Chloe Blasingame, Mrs. T.H.P. Fincher, Mrs. Daisy Abercrombie, Mrs. J. Blasingame, Jr., Mrs. W. R. McGarity, Mrs. Mary Nelle Wiley Strozler, Mrs. Mrs. Frances Young Allgood, Mrs. Mary Brooks Harris, Mr. J.B. Batchelor, John Blasingame, Curtis Collier.

The Ladies' Aid was organized in the early nineteen hundreds and was a great help to the church. They bought a table, three chairs, and a carpet. Some of their members included: Mrs. J.A. McGarity, Mrs. Chloe Blasingame, Mrs. J. Blasingame, Sr., Mrs. J.L. Mobley, Mrs. T.H.P. Fincher, and Miss Tinie Brown.

In 1924 Miss Bert Winters organized the first Missionary Society of this church with thirteen members present. Mrs. R.S. McGarity was first president with Miss Ethlene McGarity as Sec. and Treas.

This Missionary Society is still very active, but is now called, The Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The Epworth League was organized in 1918 with Miss Ethlene McGarity as Superintendent and was active for fifteen years. This work did quite a good bit for the young people and helped to mold the lives of some of them in the right direction.

The Wednesday night prayer meetings were usually well attended but after the younger generation grew up and finished their education naturally they began making their homes elsewhere and the church attendance has lowered very much. Now we have about fifty members on roll.

During the summers of 1948-'49-'50 there was a Vacation Bible School conducted by the Sunday School Supt., teachers, and Woman's Society of Christian Service for the children of the Community. A good bit of interest was manifested by the children and their parents.

Written by: Miss Ethlene McGarity  
Mrs. R.S. McGarity

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