

Watkinsville Charge
1972 - Athens - Elberton Area

202

HISTORY OF JOHNSON METHODIST CHURCH

1972 - Athens-Elberton District, Watkinsville, Charge

Early court records show that on February 24, 1863 Mr. Sam Bailey of Oconee County donated land for a Methodist church which was known as Bailey's Chapel. It was located on the Greensboro road about six miles from Watkinsville. Later the name of the church was changed to Tigner's Chapel.

In 1886 Tigner Church was discontinued and the members moved their letters to a new church which was established that year on the Flat Rock Road about three miles from Watkinsville. The new church was built on two acres of land bought from Mr. John Calvin Johnson for \$20.00 and was called Johnson Methodist Church.

Rev. J. V. M. Morris was the first pastor at Johnson. Among the first stewards were Mr. Frank McRee, Mr. Jim McRee and Mr. S. R. Ward.

The first members of the church included the following families: Downs, McRees, Wards, Thurmans, Gregorys, Biggs, Huffs, Thackers, Vickers, Whiteheads, Maxeys and Tindalls. Many of their children and grand-children are members of Johnson Church now.

The original building is still in use and was remodeled in 1947 at a cost of \$1545.17.

Sunday School has been carried on throughout the years as leaders were available. After a lapse of several years the Sunday School was reorganized in October 1942 by Rev. F. E. Jenkins, Sr. with about 50 members. The present enrollment is 67.

The Womans Society of Christian Service was organized in 1946 with twelve members. The membership is now fifteen.

The present membership of the church is 135.

MINISTERS AT JOHNSON CHURCH FROM 1887 to 1950

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| J. V. M. Morris | 1887-1888 |
| C. A. Conoway | 1888-1890 |
| E. B. Reese | 1890-1894 |
| Robert Marlin | 1894-1895 |
| James T. Ansley | 1895-1897 |
| Simon Shaw | 1897-1898 |
| J. S. Askew | 1898-1899 |
| A. J. Hughes | 1899-1903 |
| B. P. Searcy | 1903-1904 |
| A. A. Sullivan | 1904-1906 |
| A. J. Sears | 1906-1908 |
| J. F. Davis | 1908-1910 |
| L. A. Laughlin | 1910-1911 |
| E. C. Mark | 1911-1912 |
| J. R. Speer | 1912-1914 |
| G. S. Frazier | 1914-1915 |
| W. W. Carroll | 1915-1919 |
| F. D. Cantrell | 1919-1922 |
| O. B. Tally | 1922-1923 |
| B. H. Trammell | 1923-1926 |
| W. F. Lunsford | 1926-1931 |
| G. T. Shell | 1931-1933 |
| Carl Stanley | 1933-1935 |
| M. B. Sams | 1935-1939 |
| J. B. Stephenson | 1939-1941 |
| F. E. Jenkins | 1941-1948 |
| J. S. Hill | 1948-1950 |