History of the Kynette United Methodist Church

1882-1983
Kynette United Methodist Church
Forsyth, Georgia
KYNETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

by
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One hundred and two years ago in Forsyth, Monroe County, Georgia, a small town in the middle of Georgia about sixty-three (63) miles South of Atlanta, the capital city, and about twenty-four (24) miles North of Macon, the fifth largest city in the state, the citizens saw the need for a Methodist Episcopal Church. On Dec. 5, 1882, the Rev. W.H. Francis, acting for the Methodist Episcopal Church Extension Board, bought a tract of land from C.A. King, the sheriff of Monroe County. Rev. Francis attended the sheriff’s sale on Dec. 5 and was the highest bidder for the land. He paid one hundred and fifteen dollars ($115.00) to C.A. King for one and three fourth acres of land in the 408th district. Bound on the North by a public road from Forsyth to Culloden and the land of Caroline Butler, East by S.F. Wilder and Dan Dunn, South by Dan Dunn and Eliza Gorden, West by Eliza Gorden, and a public road from Forsyth to Culloden, this was the sight for the new church.

As a result, "The Star Palmer Church" was born with Rev. W.H. Francis as the first pastor. The church was in the Macon District from 1881-1884 with W.H. Francis, W.L. Coates, and A.M.H. Evans serving as ministers. In 1885-1886, the church moved to the Griffin District with A.M.H. Evans serving as minister. In December of 1887, the church moved back to the Macon District with David McClendon serving as minister. Consequently, McClendon worked at this church until 1892. Then in 1893, L.F. Beeks came to minister. V.D. Jenkins was the shepherd in charge in 1894. The ministers coming and sent to this church then changed yearly between 1892-1893. David McClendon (1892), L.F. Beeks (1893), V.D. Jenkins (1894), and E.E. Kirby pastored before the church moved to the LaGrange District in 1895 and then J.H. Grant led this congregation briefly. Until 1900, W.A. Holmes served three (3) years and R.R. O'Neal served for four years.

In 1901 the church was in the Waycross District and R.R. O'Neal was still ministering to the Star Palmer Church congregation. The church stayed in the Waycross District from 1902-1930 with the following ministers serving: John Crolley (1903), C.P. Cannon (1904), A.B. Allen (1905), E.J. Kimball (1911), J.H. Pinkney (1918), G.H. Lennon (1919), W.M. Milton (1920), and T.A. South (1922).

By 1922, the church was renamed the Kynette Methodist Episcopal Church and the building remodeled. Later in 1926, J.W. Brown came to serve the Kynette Church and the line of ministers rolled on until 1938 with J.H. Pinkney in 1921, C.C. Gissentanner in 1929, and A.H. Jamerson in 1930. By 1931, the church was in the Waynesboro District and stayed there until 1932 with C.W. Prothro and D.L. Clark serving. In 1933, the church entered into the LaGrange District again and remained

Rev. J.H. Jackson came in 1938 and led the church for a period of sixteen (16) years. Progressing greatly during the Jackson administration, Kynette fellowshiped many children, youth and adults within the church walls. Because Rev. Jackson served as principal of Hubbard Elementary School, became a member of the Hubbard High School faculty for the latter years of his administration and coached their girl’s basketball team, he received the co-operation of a large group of youth and young adults. Many young people came into the Kynette Church fold due to his productive tenure.


In 1967, the Rev. E.W. Seay came to Kynette. Although the membership was still very small, much progress was made. During this administration, the church was re-roofed and painted inside and outside twice. It was bricked-up, restrooms and a pastor’s study were added, and hardwood floors and carpeting were installed. Besides, central heating and a new piano graced the fixtures of the growing Kynette Church. New aluminum windows replaced the old windows and moreover, Rev. Seay was able to get a cash donation of $700.00 for church improvements from the General Board. This was a “first” for Kynette.

In 1970, there was a great merging of the North Georgia Conference, the South Conference, and the Georgia Conference. The church believed that the time had come for the churches and membership of the three conferences in the Georgia area to combine to form two Annual Conferences in accordance with permission granted by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. The merger took place and the conferences were named, “The North Georgia Conference” and “The South Georgia Conference” with boundaries of the old North Georgia Conference and the old South Georgia Conference of the Atlanta area. In June 1970, the coalition took place with Bishop John Owen Smith as the president and presiding Bishop of the conference.

1970 was a good year for Kynette. After the union, the name was changed to the Kynette United Methodist Church. The pastor, Rev. E.W. Seay, District Superintendent Rev. Neal Windon, and District Superintendent Rev. Frank Jenkins secured $2,000.00 for Ethnic Church Improvements and a promise of $4,000.00
more in the near future. These funds were given by the General Board of the North Georgia Conference.

On Sunday, Feb. 27, 1983 3:00 P.M., final rites for Rev. E.W. Seay were held at the Kynette United Methodist Church in Forsyth where he served from 1967 until his death.

Later within the month, District Superintendent Frank Jenkins appointed Rev. Jerry Norris to Kynette. Rev. Norris stayed with the church from Feb. until June. When the North Georgia Annual Conference met in June 1983, the Bishop Joel McDavid appointed the Rev. Michael W. Freeman to pastor. Rev. Freeman has been with the Kynette United Methodist Church since that time and now it is “on the move” again.

From the onset of Rev. Freeman’s pastorate, Kynette has organized a new choir called the “Forsyth Parish Youth Choir.” Kynette sent a youth, Damon Wilder, to camp and the church is now handing out printed bulletins every Sunday. In addition, the church has adopted a drawing by Mr. Fred Toles of the old church structure before it was bricked-up as the official cover for the Sunday church service records.