THE HISTORY OF LEVEL CREEK METHODIST CHURCH

Surmanee Charge

James Douglas, living in the territory of the present Church, saw the need for a religious service in the community, and started a Sunday School in his own home, for his children and others of the community. This was in 1822 and it was the first Sunday School any of these people had ever attended. It grew so fast that they moved to a little log school house across a creek that was named Level Creek. The name of the Church was taken from this.

Rev. J. M. Parks, a missionary, came through that section and preached in the school house and organized a Church. Mr. Douglas and Mr. J. R. Thompson were appointed as teachers and Rev. George S. Caspar, a local preacher, served as its first pastor. This was in 1823 when the Church was organized, and given the name of Level Creek. The early records were destroyed by fire and there isn't any way of knowing how many members there were when the Church was organized.

The Church grew so fast they soon had to make other arrangements, so everyone agreed to build a large Church. They built on the other side of the creek one half mile south of the school house, where the present Church now stands. A day was appointed after the crops were finished and every man and boy that could work, met and they soon had the meeting house (as it was called) completed. There was no money spent except for nails. Wilson Stickland who had a saw mill sawed the lumber for the floors, doors, and windows. The Church flourished wonderfully in those days and several preachers went out from Level Creek. Among those were; Tillman Douglas, Samuel Anthony, Issac Rutherford, J. H. Reese, and Thompson Moore. Also James E. Baxter, and John M. Armstrong.

In 1897, the present Church was built at a cost of $1,000. The house and land was then valued at $1,500. J. E. England was then pastor of the Church. Following are some of the names of the pastors who have served this Church since 1839; W. W. Uslin, J. W. Quillian, W. A. Farris, J. E. Rarie, W. T. Hunnicutt, T. H. Timmons, J. E. England, H. A. Hodges, T. J. Warlick, W. L. Singleton, T. H. Golden, N. E. McBrayer, S. H. Braswell, F. A. Smith, W. W. Gaines, G. W. Stipe, A. E. Scott, Z. V. Hawks, M. B. Whitaker, J. R. Shuds, J. L. Ruthland, D. S. Patterson, H. G. Green, W. H. Coffman, A. E. Silevy, C. M. Verdell, C. J. Haynes, N. O. L. Powell, E. E. Couch, B. N. McChan, W. A. Pilgrim, A. A. Phillips, James Conner, Carlyle Philips at Level Creek and Jack Caldwell at Meadow and Suwanee to complete the year of 1944. There is no record of 1945. Harvey C. Boyd, Pastor now.

(The pastor of 1945 was Odum Clark and he returned for 1946. 1947-48 Hugh Duling, Jr. was the pastor.)
Level Creek Church is now on the Suwanee Charge, which has five Churches; Level Creek, Suwanee, Mt. Zion, Meadow, and Trinity all in Gwinnett County, except Mt. Zion. The Church having no parsonage, and Level Creek having sufficient ground, they decided in 1949 to build a parsonage. A modern five room house was built on the Church grounds. This was built at a cost of $2,619.85. Free labor and donations amounted to $256.00. Level Creek built the house and the other churches furnished it. It contains a living room, two bed-rooms, dining room, an all electric kitchen and bath room. The present Pastor is Rev. Harvey Boyd, and the present superintendent of the Sunday School is A. T. Moore. The Church membership is now 76.

There has been many great revivals in the Church in the past. There is a large cemetery on the Church grounds, nearly filled with the good people that have gone on to their reward. There were many Moores, Brodgons, Wisdons, Whiteheads, Kennedys, Sudderths, Baxters, Clowers, Brandons, Armstrongs, Thompsons, Harriises, Kings, Browns, Williamsonsons, Rutherfords, Wheelers, Reeses, Barns, Verners, Hutchins, Chapmens, Roberts, Hortons, Whites, and many more families that has helped keep the Church alive. The present Church is the third Church building. The last two were built on the grounds given by the Rev. Thompson Moore and wife, Nancy E. Moore. He gave five acres and the deeds were recorded July 7, 1852. The first Superintendent of the present Church was Mr. Robert Kennedy. The first Trustees when the Church was organized in 1823, were John B. Reese, Joseph Baxter, Martin W. Armstrong, David D. Barn, and Joseph P. Brogdon. The present Trustees are Paul Simms, Aron Moore, and Mr. Will Maltbie.

I have been away from Level Creek for 45 years. Going back only on visits, once and twice a year, and don't know much about the Church at the present, but I do know that it is doing better work now than in some years past, and I pray that it will always be a light to shine for the betterment of God's Kingdom on earth. I have gathered this information from two books that have been written about the Church and some first hand information that was given me years ago by my Grandmother (Nancy E. Moore) and my parents.

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(Granddaughter of the Late Rev. Thompson Moore, and Mrs. Nancy E. Moore.)