The History of the Lyerly Methodist Church

History does not record when the first meeting of the Melville Methodist Church, now the Lyerly Methodist Church took place. When the few Charter Members first began conducting worship services, there was no church building and the congregation assembled in a school house in the year of 1884.

The land now owned by the Lyerly United Methodist Church was deeded to the original trustees by Angus McCloud. These trustees who acquired the land and made the first plans for a church building were:

Angus McCloud  A.J. Lee
D.M. Strange  R.B. Cooley  J.A. Gilmer
J.B. McCloud  B.O. Smith  J.A. Starling

Soon after the completion of the church building, the trustees felt the need for a parsonage, obtained another lot and erected a home for their pastor. This parsonage had seven rooms and was a two story building.

Beginning January 1, 1900, Lyerly Charge consisted of the Lyerly, Oak Hill and Ami Churches. Since 1900 there have been several changes in the Lyerly Charge. The old Ami Church has been moved to Menlo, Georgia and at one time Lyerly Charge consisted of Lyerly, Oak Hill and Menlo Churches. For another time Lyerly was on the Summerville-Menlo Charge. Later the Lyerly Church was placed back on the Lyerly Charge, with the charge consisting of the following churches: Lyerly, Oak Hill, Prospect, and South Carolina Camp Ground, and later Jones Chapel at Berryton. Several years ago, the Berryton Church was dissolved and the church building was torn down and moved to Lyerly for Sunday School rooms. Thus, a building built with great sacrifice by Christians from different communities was joined together to make one church for Christians to worship in. At present the Lyerly Charge consists of the Lyerly and Oak Hill churches. Though being on the same charge, these two churches operate independently of each other.

On December 26, 1941, the parsonage was completely destroyed by fire. The members of the church met the next day. they were divided into groups – each responsible for a certain phase of the work in the construction of a new parsonage. This new parsonage was erected on the same lot as the church. The first pastor to occupy the new parsonage was T.M. Luke. This parsonage was expanded in 1973 with the addition of several rooms and a carport.

The church building that is worshipped in today is the original church building. As far as can be guessed, it was built in the 1890’s. Over the years the church facility has grown with its membership. The Church was renovated in 1954 and in 1972 a central air conditioning and heating system was installed in the church. In 1971 a Fellowship Hall was constructed. And in 1977 four new Sunday School rooms, a bathroom, and a library were added onto the church.

Over the years the church has grown and grown having now a membership of 138. It is an active church with a United Methodist Men’s Club, a United Methodist Women’s Group, and a United Methodist Youth Fellowship. The Lyerly United Methodist Church has been blessed in its ministry over the last 95 years and it looks forward to the future with faith and hope in its Lord, Jesus Christ.
Pastors of Lyerly United Methodist

1900 M.L. Troutman
1903 J.S. Emberry
1904 J.A. Grogin
1906 J.A. Simmons
1908 J.W. Gochen
1910 F.W. McClasky
1911 E.C. Harris
1912 J.E. Rosser
1913 R.A. Clyte
1914 George Chambers
1915 J.T. Harris
1917 N.A. Parson
1919 L.H. Green
1920 T.L. Brise
1922 O.A. Bagglery
1923 W.H. Spears
1925 Charlie Drake
1926 O.P. McDermont
1930 W.B. Brown
1931 Clyde Lee
1933 Max Whittimore
1934 Adron Warwick
1936 W.B. Hughes
1938 W.P. Rowe
1940 T.L. Luke
1942 B.L. Betts
1945 Shelton Adams
1948 Lorain Parker
1949 H.M. Smith
1950 Oscar Dyer
1951 J.F. Gladney
1954 Floyd Hale
1956 Blackwell
1957 Paul Dearman
1958 Charles Hendrix
1959 C.H. Wheelis
1962 S. Paul Stone
1964 John W. Miller
1967 John Cowar
1969 J. Ellis Brashear
1971 Lawrence Burge
1975 William H. Kirby
1977 C. Stephen Davidson
1979 Douglas E. Thrasher
1981 Melvin Brinkley
1982 Benny Waldrop