HAVEN DALTIN DISH

HISTORY

of

McLAYSVILLE METHODIST CHURCH
The Methodists of McCaysville, under the ministry of a Rev. Morgan who held a tent meeting in 1913, decided to organize a church.

Many years before this, the Hopewell Methodist Episcopal Church in McCaysville, served the Methodists of the Copper Basin as the only Methodist Church in the area. As Copperhill, McCaysville and outlying sections developed other churches were organized and the Hopewell church ceased to exist, but some of its members became charter members of the McCaysville church.

In 1914 Dr. R.H. Robb, a retired member of the Georgia Conference, the Methodist Episcopal Church was appointed, by Bishop F.D. Leete who was serving the conferences of Georgia and Florida area, to work with the McCaysville Methodists. Dr. and Mrs. Robb moved into a rented apartment, found a place for the group to worship—an old dwelling near where the McCaysville High School now stands, and began the task of organizing a church. Dr. Robb, one of the most efficient and spiritual ministers of the Georgia conference, never lost faith in his purpose and in 1917 saw the church that now stands dedicated and on its rolls a membership of faithful workers, with a fine Sunday school, a congregation in worship services each Sunday, a prayer meeting, Ladies Aid and other activities.

There were disappointments all along the way—every undertaking did not meet with success right off but when one plan failed they tried another. There were some disagreements over the first property secured, the second was also a disappointment but the third piece of property investigated turned out to be suitable to all concerned and free from any legal tangles.
Mr. J.F. McCay, administrator for the Mathews estate in Maple Grove, sold the church four lots for $200.00 and gave half the amount. In this and various other ways Mr. McCay generously helped.

In September 1915 the church plan was bought, after modifying it the work of building was soon begun. The King Lumber Company through Mr. J.J. King ordered the heaviest bills and gave the benefit of wholesale rates. Some funds were loaned by the Board of Church Extension. The people pledged and worked and some whose names are forgotten were liberal with their money and service.

Those of the building committee were Mr. J.J. King, Mr. C.P. Queen, Mr. Jack Cochran and Mr. Francis McKinney who was not a member of the church, served with the building committee and gave valuable service in other ways.

The list of Charter Members is incomplete but among them were Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. C.P. Queen, Mr. and Mrs. Will McCay, Mrs. Josie Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. John Withrow, Mrs. Emma Burger, Mr. James Duckett, Mrs. J.F. McKinney and Mr. and Mrs. Otis Mitchell. Mr. Charles Mathis.

The church named, "The McCaysville Methodist Episcopal Church" was dedicated free of debt in 1917 by Bishop F.D. Leete. There was a substantial roll of members and Dr. Robb in the days of his retirement had brought to a successful fulfillment another big job for which he was most gifted throughout his long ministry.

Rev. E.R. Poor was sent by the Conference to serve as pastor in 1918. During his ministry the parsonage was built. After the first lots were bought from Mr. McCay, the church bought two other lots which gives room for a play ground, and parsonage.
During these years many people have been converted, nurtured in the faith and served well in this church. Infants, little children, young people, adults and the aged have been baptized at its altar and have been blessings in this world carrying on the great work of serving the Lord.

The church and its influence today reaches into this town and country, and is really a light to sin sick souls and a comfort to those who walk in his way.

A list of the Pastors follow:

R.H. Robb -------- 1917
E.R. Poor -------- 1918
G.B. Miner -------- 1919
L.E. Kilgore ------ 1919-1923
W.F. Hampton ------ 1924
B.A. Chastain ----- 1925
G.O. Mulkey ------- 1926-1927
W.H. Brannam ------ 1928
J.D. Posey ------- 1929-1930
H.S. Milsaps ------ 1931
Edgar A. Hardegree-- 1932 (Resigned March 16, 1933)
J.F. Rollins, Jr. --- 1933-1934
Z.A. Faison, Jr. --- 1935
Roy A. Neal -------- 1936
Adrian Warwick ---- 1940
John G. Lupo ------ 1941
Carl H. Thomas ----- 1942-1945
A.E. Silvey -------- 1946
J.C. Ford -------- 1946
J.B. Gresham------- 1947-1948
Mrs. C.M. Rogers
Historian