McKENDREE METHODIST CHURCH

Three and a half miles west of Lawrenceville, on the Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road, stands McKendree Church, which has the name of Bishop McKendree.

In the year 1883, several people living in the community resolved to hold a religious meeting; so, a bush arbor was built. The Reverend Mascincinco Reid, who was then pastor of the Lawrenceville Methodist Church, and the Reverend W. M. Winn were invited to hold a meeting. The organization of the McKendree Church resulted from that meeting.

One acre of land was given by Mrs. Martha Wellmaker and an adjoining acre was given by M. B. Montgomery for church purposes; the land was deeded to the following trustees to be used by the members of the M. E. Church, South, for religious purposes: T. O. R. Lanier, G. W. Naffett, H. L. Peeples, W. M. Kemp, and John Taylor.

The first house was built on the land given by M. B. Montgomery, and was used both as a church and a school from 1884 until 1896, when the new church was built. The names of the members in 1884 were as follows:


At various times efforts were made to build a new church, but the efforts always failed. In 1895, while James Taylor was preacher, lumber was sawed and hauled on the ground, but it was not until 1906, under the pastorate or Dr. Mixon that the new church was finally built. It was a much larger and better house than the old one and cost about $1,200. It was built upon the acre of land given by Mrs. Martha Wellmaker.

McKendree was attached to the Lawrenceville Charge, Gainesville District of the North Georgia Conference. In 1911 it was changed to the Norcross Circuit. And in 1926 it was changed to another charge; for many years it was on the Lawrenceville charge again. It was changed in 1946 to the Rock Spring Circuit.

Many great revivals have been held at this church; they were conducted by many great preachers; some were the Reverends J. T. Bakes, Bill Boring,
Grover C. Knowles, B. Betts, O. C. Brown, Claude Singleton, W. W. Cash and many others.

A Sunday School was started even before the organization of the church, and has always been kept up in summer and winter, ranging in number from 60 to 125. Mr. H. L. Peeples was Sunday School Superintendent for 30 years. Other superintendents were W. F. Maxey, H. H. Bracwell, Walter Teague, J. F. Crowe. The present Sunday School Superintendent is Mr. E. B. Peeples.

The church has always been noted for its singing. Several good singers have belonged to it at different times. Among others that can be recalled were T. N. Smith, Zeke Haynie, George Sparks and T. A. Paden. George Sparks could not be beat as a leader on the old time songs. He called the new books "Narrow Gauge" and did not like to sing in them much. In the old sacred harp he knew every song and its number and did not have to look in the book to tell the number and lead in the song. He could sing all day without tiring. It is related of him that he helped manage an election in Lawrenceville just after the war, in which they voted on adoption of the State Constitution. It took all night to count the votes and Sparks did the calling. He got it in a regular song, for the constitution—Against the Constitution, and after calling all night he was perfectly fresh next morning.
The names of the pastors who have served McKendree Church are as follows:

1894 - Rev. J. R. King
1895 - Rev. M. D. Turner and
  Rev. W. D. Lewis
1896 - Rev. E. K. Akins
1897 - 88 - Rev. B. E. L. Timmons
1899 - Rev. Geo. K. Quillian
1900 - Rev. M. H. Edwards
1901 - Rev. Harwell and Rev.
  Rev. Davis
1902 - Rev. W. A. Farris
1903 - Rev. J. E. Barie
1904 - Rev. W. A. Parks
1905 - Rev. James Taylor
1907 - Rev. J. W. Austin
1908 - Rev. Marril
1899 - 1900 - Rev. E. C. Marks
1901 - 02 - Rev. S. H. Braswell
1903 - Rev. Timmerman
1904 - Rev. H. W. Norris
1905 - Rev. Wallace Rogers
1906 - Rev. Mixon
1907 - 08 - Rev. O. L. Kelly
1909 - Rev. C. H. Branch
1910 - Rev. Bassent and
  Rev. T. A. Ragdale
1911 - Rev. T. A. Ragdale

1912
1913
1914 - Rev. C. A. Swift
1915 - 16 - 17 - Rev. W. M. Dunbar
1918 - Rev. W. W. Brunsfield
1919 - 20 - Rev. E. G. Thomason
1921 - Rev. H. H. Jones
1922 - Rev. J. J. Blanks
1923 - 24 - Rev. Marvin Franklin
1925 - 1926 - Rev. J. W. Tumlin
1927 - Rev. R. E. Rutland
1928 - 29 - Rev. S. R. England
1930 - Rev. R. E. Rutland
1931 - 34 - Rev. W. W. Cash
1935 - 36 - Rev. E. L. Edmondson
1937 - 40 - Rev. P. J. McKnight
1941 - 42 - Rev. C. F. Varable
1943 - 45 - Rev. R. L. Whitehead
1946 - Rev. W. F. Lunsford
1947 - 48 - Rev. J. L. Ray
1949 - 50 - Rev. J. S. McDonald
1950 - Rev. W. P. Barkner

No record of the district superintendents have been kept. The only personal information of the few District Superintendents we have is as follows:

Rev. W. H. Laprade
Rev. H. C. Emory - 1929 - 32
Rev. B. H. Smith - 1934 - 34
Rev. J. F. Yarbrough - 1955 - 35
Rev. Claude Hendricks 1959 - 42
Rev. J. F. Young - 1943 - 44
Rev. Meloow Brulrod - 1947 - 49
Rev. A. B. Estler - 1950 -

Church Historian - Miss Montine Crowe