

Alton Dist ?

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FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

NELSON, GEORGIA

Land for the First Methodist Church of Nelson, in the Tate Charge, was given to the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, of the city of Louisville, Kentucky, as long as it shall be held, kept, and maintained as a place of devine worship for the ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and decided by the General Conference of said Church, and the Annual Conference within whose bounds this land may be situated.

A deed was so given on the seventeenth day of November 1906 signed by Messrs. A. J. Spence, Alexander Anderson, R. L. Callahan, W. A. Wiley, Jr., and *M.* J. Beck, as trustees of the First Methodist Church and a representative of the Board of Church Extension.

The trustees have bargained, sold, and granted unto the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, its successors and assigns forever with covenant of general warranty of title to same: "One lot on the northwest corner of Blue Ridge Avenue and Kennesaw Avenue, fronting on Blue Ridge Avenue 76 feet and running back the same width 106 feet.

The trustees obligate themselves to insure and keep insured the improvements upon the property against loss or damage by fire.

This deed was executed under the authority of a resolution of the Quarterly Conference of Nelson Circuit Charge in the boundary of the North Georgia Annual Conference, adopted at a meeting thereof held on the 28th day of October 1905.

The foregoing was the beginning of the Church in Nelson, Georgia. There was no Baptist Church in Nelson and all Christians met together, even having a Baptist as Superintendent for several years, Mr. L. E. Baker.

There have been many notable pastors, many of whom have gone on to larger congregations, many to Presiding Elder, or District Superintendents and one was made a Bishop.

Bishop W. T. Watkins was such an outstanding young man, that Colonel Sam Tate gave him a year's study in Scotland - paying the expenses of his family also.

Bishop Candler was in office when the Church was first organized, the Reverend W. B. Dillard was Presiding Elder and the Reverend Felton Williams was the first pastor.

There are only three of the members who joined in 1908 still in the Nelson Church. The janitor, Luther Burge has been very faithful for almost thirty-five years.

Six class rooms were added about 1923, gas furnace and heaters installed in 1954, and now in 1955 the outside of the building is getting a face-lifting, asbestos siding is being put on and all windows fixed. The windows being the project of the Women's Society of Christian Service.

There are only twenty-one members living in Nelson but they are workers and want to have an attractive and comfortable House of Worship.

Mr. W. A. Wiley was the first Superintendent, then Mr. Lee Baker and Mr. G. M. Atherton. Mr. Hightower has been Superintendent since 1923, except for two years when Mrs. R. K. Bettis was in charge for one year and Mr. Kerley, one year. Mr. B. F. Harbin is Secretary and Mr. Cecil Ingram, Treasurer.

Following is the list of Bishops, Presiding Elders, District Secretaries and Pastors.

YEAR	BISHOP
1902-21	Candler
1922	Murrah
1923-25	Darlington
1926-29	Beauchamp
1930-33	J. M. Moore
1934-37	W. N. Ainsworth
1938-39	J. L. Decell
1940-	Arthur J. Moore
YEAR	PRESIDING ELDER
1907	T. J. Christian
1908-10	W. B. Dillard
1911	J. T. Daves
1912-15	W. H. Cooper
1916-19	J. P. Erwin
1920-23	S. R. England
1924-27	H. H. Jones
1928-29	Nath Thompson
1930-33	Marvin Williams
1934-37	W. M. Jones
1938-39	Augustus Ernest
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS	
1940-45	Wallace Rogers
1946-50	Lester Rumble
1951-	J. W. O. McKibben

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YEAR	PASTOR	ASSISTANT
1908	Felton Williams	
1908-10	W. H. Clark	
1910-11	G. W. Barrett	
1911-14	Nath Thompson	
1914-15	N. A. White	
1915-16	G. L. King	
1916-17	Firley Baum	
1917-18	H. C. Emory	
1918-22	W. T. Watkins	
1922-23	W. E. Brown	
1923-25	C. L. Middlebrooks	
1925-26	J. R. Allen	
1926-29	A. Lee Hale	
1929-33	J. S. Thrailkill	
1933-35	D. P. Johnston	
1935-39	D. S. Patterson	
1939-44	L. B. Linn	
1944-48	L. F. Van Landingham	
1949-52	E. P. Kendall	Plemon Folds Claude Harper
1952-53	Roy A. Neal	James H. Griffin
1953-	Sanford McDonald	James H. Griffin G. O. Miley