1972 Augusta Dist

HISTORY
OF
THE NORWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE NORWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

As early as 1880 a union Sunday School was held in the school house located opposite the present Norwood Baptist Church with Thomas C. Newton as superintendent. In 1881 the Norwood Methodist Church was organized in this school house.

On February 14, 1882 Flavius H. McGinty of Warren County deeded 3,900 square yards of land to A. E. Massengale, John H. Hall, V. A. McGinty, T. E. Massengale, and James A. Scruggs, trustees, to be used as a place of divine worship for the ministry and membership of the Norwood Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

While a building was being erected on this lot, Sunday School continued to be held in the school house. The structure was completed and dedicated in 1882 by Rev. H. H. Parker, and Rev. W. T. Hamilton served as first pastor.

Some of the charter members were: Rev. J. M. Armstrong, his wife, and two daughters, one of whom (Miss Leola Armstrong) is living at this writing; Mr. and Mrs. James A. Scruggs; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Massengale; Mr. and Mrs. A. Murray Massengale; John Beall; Miss Anna Beall; W. Theodore Evans; Jule C. Evans; Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hall; Mr. and Mrs. John M. Heath; Dr. W. H. Pilcher; V. V. Hill; Dr. and Mrs. Noel Darden.


The Woman's Missionary Society (known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service since unification in 1939) was organized in 1884 by the pastor, Rev. W. W. Arnold, and Mrs. Crawford, an ardent Missionary worker from Greene County. From that day to this it has never ceased to exist. Mrs. Mary C. Massengale was one of the most faithful and devout presidents of this organization though not among the first. Mrs. C. A. Ray also served as president.
A Juvenile Society was begun in the early 1880's. Mrs. Carrie Arnold, Mrs. Bodenheimer, and Mrs. J. C. Evans were some of the early lady managers. At one time this Society clothed an Indian girl. In the 1930's the Society was disbanded because of the small number of children living in Norwood.

For many years the Epworth League (Youth Fellowship since unification) was very active. At intervals this group has been unable to carry on because of a scarcity of young people; however, it has been the means of bringing many young people into the church.

Some of the Sunday School superintendents include Jule C. Evans, W. H. Cooper, H. R. Avery, Sam English, Ray Neal, W. A. Bradshaw, and Charlie Ray, who serves at the present time.

The first church edifice was used for only a few years after which it was sold to the negroes to be used by them as a place of worship. The present church house was erected on the same site as the first in 1890. It was dedicated by Rev. Lundy Harris, husband of Corra Harris.

Down through the years repairs have been made, and only a few years ago a second building was added on the church grounds. This structure was built to be used for Sunday School rooms and as a community center.

During most of the years since organization the Norwood Church has been in the Augusta District; however, for a short while it was placed in the Athens District.

The following pastors have served the Norwood Church:

1882 W. T. Hamilton
1883 F. P. Brown
1884 Miles W. Arnold
1885 Miles W. Arnold
1886 Miles W. Arnold
1887 Miles W. Arnold
1888 W. T. Caldwell
1889 Robert A. Seale
1890 Robert A. Seale
1891 Robert A. Seale
1892 J. B. Holland
1893 A. J. Hughes
1894  A. J. Hughes
1895  E. B. Reese
1896  E. B. Reese
1897  E. B. Reese
1898  J. S. Embry
1899  J. B. Holland (returned)
1900  J. A. Timmerman
1901  J. A. Timmerman
1902  Oscar L. Kelley
1903  Oscar L. Kelley
1904  W. A. Farris
1905  W. A. Farris
1906  R. W. Rogers
1907  R. W. Rogers
1908  R. W. Rogers
1909  J. R. Allen
1910  J. W. Bailey
1911  Firley Baum
1912  Firley Baum
1913  Firley Baum
1914  J. M. Fowler
1915  J. M. Fowler
1916  C. F. Hughes
1917  C. F. Hughes
1918  W. O. Butler
1919  W. O. Butler
1920  F. A. Ragsdale
1921  J. E. Russell
1922  J. E. Russell
1923  J. E. Russell
1924  J. E. Russell
1925  C. A. Reese
1926  C. A. Reese
1927  C. A. Reese
1928  H. G. Garrett
1929  W. J. Bryson and Fred Chenault
1930  H. S. Zoeller
1931  W. F. Lunsford
1932  W. F. Lunsford
1933  W. F. Lunsford
1934  W. F. Lunsford
1935  V. B. Hamrick
1936  V. B. Hamrick
1937  V. B. Hamrick
1938  W. J. Gulpepper
1939  W. J. Gulpepper
1940  A. T. Hind
1941  A. T. Hind
1942  A. T. Hind
1943  A. P. Watkins
1944  A. P. Watkins
1945  A. P. Watkins
1946  A. P. Watkins
1947  Lee Brannham, Jr.
<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Lee Branham, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>P. H. Stokes</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>T. J. McCullough, Jr.</td>
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<td>1952</td>
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<td>1954</td>
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