

1977 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. M. 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.

Rev. F. P. Brown succeeded Rev. Hamilton as pastor in 1883. Rev. Miles W. Arnold, who became pastor in 1884, served four years. Brother Arnold conducted a notable revival in 1884.

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. M. 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. G. 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

1888 W. T. Caldwell

1883 F. P. Brown

1889 Robert A. Seale

1884 Miles W. Arnold

1890 Robert A. Seale

1885 Miles W. Arnold

1891 Robert A. Seale

1886 Miles W. Arnold

1892 J. B. Holland

1887 Miles W. Arnold

1893 A. J. Hughes

1894	A. J. Hughes	1921	J. E. Russell
1895	E. B. Reese	1922	J. E. Russell
1896	E. B. Reese	1923	J. E. Russell
1897	E. B. Reese	1924	J. E. Russell
1898	J. S. Embry	1925	C. A. Reese
1899	J. B. Holland (returned)	1926	C. A. Reese
1900	J. A. Timmerman	1927	C. A. Reese
1901	J. A. Timmerman	1928	H. G. Garrett
1902	Oscar L. Kelley	1929	W. J. Bryson and Fred Chenault
1903	Oscar L. Kelley	1930	H. S. Zoeller
1904	W. A. Farris	1931	W. F. Lunsford
1905	W. A. Farris	1932	W. F. Lunsford
1906	R. W. Rogers	1933	W. F. Lunsford
1907	R. W. Rogers	1934	W. F. Lunsford
1908	R. W. Rogers	1935	V. B. Hamrick
1909	J. R. Allen	1936	V. B. Hamrick
1910	J. W. Bailey	1937	V. B. Hamrick
1911	Firley Baum	1938	W. J. Culpepper
1912	Firley Baum	1939	W. J. Culpepper
1913	Firley Baum	1940	A. T. Hind
1914	J. M. Fowler	1941	A. T. Hind
1915	J. M. Fowler	1942	A. T. Hind
1916	C. F. Hughes	1943	A. P. Watkins
1917	C. F. Hughes	1944	A. P. Watkins
1918	W. O. Butler	1945	A. P. Watkins
1919	W. O. Butler	1946	A. P. Watkins
1920	F. A. Ragsdale	1947	Lee Branham, Jr.

1948 Lee Branham, Jr.
1949 P. H. Stokes
1950 T. J. McCullough, Jr.
1951 T. J. McCullough, Jr.
1952 T. J. McCullough, Jr.
1953 W. L. Brackman, Jr.
1954 W. L. Brackman, Jr.