HISTORY OF OCEE METHODIST CHURCH

On January 22, 1902, W. F. Brewer of Atlanta, Georgia deeded to R. F. Bagwell, O. B. Adams, Weldon Barnett, J. H. Douglas, and W. F. Brewer as trustees of Ocee Congregational Church and their successors in office a certain tract of land in the village of Ocee described as follows: being a part of land lot number 198 beginning at corner of Cunningham land on Jones Ferry Road running North and fronting on said road 168 feet to Shirley Bridge Road, thence west along said road and fronting on said road 328 feet, thence South at right angles 168 feet thence East to beginning corner on Jones Ferry Road 270 feet containing 50232 sq. ft. on which said lot a neat little building was erected and used as a Congregational Church building for about 16 years when the said Church voted to ask for admission into the Methodist Conference.

This request was made to the Quarterly Meeting at Shiloh in 1918, The Conference taking the plea under advisement to be presented to the Annual Conference at their meeting in November.

The Annual Conference voted to buy this Church and that it should become The Ocee Methodist Church to replace the Bethlehem Methodist Church. Rev. C. F. Hughes being the first pastor to serve this Church.

At the first regular service of this Church the members who transferred from the Bethlehem Church stood as a body and were received into the Church. These were A. W. Austin, Misses Samantha and Sara Austin, Mrs. R. H. Addy, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Dorsey, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Webb, Virgil and Gladys Webb.

After this new members were received at this service among those
HISTORY OF OOEE METHODIST CHURCH

were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brooks, Mrs. T. H. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Douglas, Mr. R. E. Douglas, Miss Mamie Douglas and Mr. Joe Douglas.

From this beginning the membership steadily grew until in 1943 we felt the need of a new building in which to Worship. A meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Addy to discuss plans for building a new church. Rev. J. M. Guest, the pastor, presided at this meeting.

The following were chosen as a building committee: J. D. Douglas, Sr., R. H. Addy, Billy Brooks, Atward Anderson and Joe Douglas, Jr. J. D. Douglas, Sr. chairman.

We moved slowly for the next six years, buying bonds and making plans when our dream of a brick building on the beautiful site where now stands the present building.

However, as we planned for the new church, we never failed to grasp any opportunity for improvement. And in 1945, through the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Douglas, Sr. we installed chimes in our church which still can be heard with their call to Worship on Sunday mornings and evenings. A Corner stone was presented to the Church by Mr. Jasper Stone.

In 1949 Jay Fleck was chosen architect and R. E. Douglas building supervisor and the actual work of the Church began.

The work progressed steadily, and, in June 1950 we were able to move into the new church. However, it was still incomplete.
Among those who aided us as we were striving to build the church, were, The Young Matron's Class of the Riverside Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, Mrs. J. T. Douglas, teacher. These ladies donated the cross and lights for our Church.

We were happy to start a Pew Fund in 1954, with Mr. H. B. Reid as chairman. In December of that year we installed oak pews and pulpit furniture at a cost of $2311.79. Rev. and Mrs. Foster D. Smith, who was the first pastor of our new church, presented a beautiful Pulpit Bible.

Our church, equipment and grounds are now valued at $50,000.


Compiled and authenticated by:

THE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH HISTORY
FOR THE OFFICIAL BOARD OF
THE OCEE METHODIST CHURCH:

R. EARLY DOUGLAS, Chairman
Mrs. T. R. Brooks
Miss Sara Austin.

This the