HISTORY OF THE ODESSADALE METHODIST CHURCH

The Odessadale Methodist Church of Odessadale, Meriwether County, Georgia, was organized in 1897 in the school house. The charter officiary was: J. C. Harman, John C. Parham, David D. Harman, Merriman Harman, William M. Marchman, J. Anderson Glanton and C. M. Harman. Most of the charter members already belonged to the Methodist church at Mountville, Georgia on which charge the church is now.

A railroad had recently been made through the community and the town of Odessadale was founded. Naturally the Methodist wanted a church in the new town, so the church was organized with approximately sixty members.

The land which contained one and one half acres to be used for a school and church building, was donated by Miss Odessa Thompson, a member of the Baptist church.

The Sunday School is older than the church having been organized about 1901 or 1902 in the school building with H. R. Harris as the first Superintendent. The following Superintendents have served since that time: J. C. Harman, C. F. Harris, Dr. E. C. Stipe, Mrs. H. R. Harris, W. A. Glanton, Mrs. L. C. Harman, R. N. Watson, Mrs. Claude P. Harman and Claude P. Harman. At present there are twenty-five members on roll with an average attendance of about fifteen.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society was organized in 1901 with eighteen members. Mrs. H. R. Harris was the first president. There is one financial report available from 1903 which gives $8.75 as the amount raised for one quarter.

The present Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized in 1950 and the president is Mrs. Claude P. Harman is doing a wonderful work in such a small group. Every woman in the church is a member of the Woman's Society and several Baptist ladies have joined. Through the president's efforts and the pastor's wife, Mrs. J. A. Riddle the charge has had two study courses this year; the first in six years.

The church is worshipping in the original building but many improvements have been made through the years. Just last year the interior was completely redecorated and stained glass windows replaced the old plain glass ones.

One of the most successful revivals the church has experienced and one that stands out in memory was conducted by Dr. Thomas M. Elliott. He delivered a series of sermons from John 3:16 which were an inspiration to all who heard him.

Historian
Miss Leo Partridge