PENTECOST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pentecost Church dates back to 1785 according to church records, and is considered one of the oldest churches in Barrow County. It was established as a Protestant Methodist Church through the efforts of a Revolutionary War soldier, William Pentecost.

In 1912 Pentecost Church merged with the Methodist Episcopal Church South; and in 1968 became a part of the United Methodist Church. The fifth and present church building was constructed in 1954, and dedication services were held February 3, 1963. Participating in this service was Bishop John Owen Smith, Rev. W.H. Ruff, District Superintendent, Rev. Mell Simon, pastor when church was built, Rev. Lawrence Crane, pastor at time of dedication, and Glenn Pentecost, a decedant of the founder.

Called to the ministry from this Church are Tom Gasaway, Chester Weatherford and Carolyn Pentecost Younts, a great, great, great granddaughter of the Rev. William Pentecost.

Carolyn successfully organized the first W.S.C.S. at Pentecost Church in the early 1950’s, while a student at Young Harris College. Carolyn received an A.B degree in Religion at the University of Georgia and a B.D degree in Religion at Drew University, Madison, N.Y. She is now pastor of Rydott United Methodist Church, Freeport, Ill., while her husband Rev. Robert Younts pastors the First United Methodist Church in Freeport, also.

North Georgia Conference records show the following ministers who have served the Church well: R.S. McGarity, James Patrick, E.A. Caldwell, Marion Conway, Mell Simon, John McGinnis, Tom Gasaway, Lawrence Crane, Wyche Kirkley, Bill Aiken, Gordon Fincher, Bobby Anthony, Charles Hendrix, Ronnie Flowers, Sam McDowell, John Friedman, Ben Strength, Leonard Crawford and Hugh S. Page.
On Sunday May 7, 1978 a service was held to dedicate a Historical marker to the memory of the founder of the Church. The inscription reads as follows:

WILLIAM PENTECOST

Born Nov. 4, 1762 Died Jan. 27, 1839

"Served three years in Revolutionary War from Dinwiddie Co., Va. in Buford’s Detachment. Lost an arm at the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780. Remembered as successful business man, educator and civic worker, but most outstanding as devout Methodist minister. Is credited with establishing five churches. Pentecost Methodist Church was established in 1785. William and Delilah Pentecost were buried in family plot, but in 1909 the family had their bodies re-interred in a single grave in the Pentecost Church cemetery."

This marker was purchased by members of the Pentecost family, through the Barrow County Historical Society, and placed on the front lawn of the Church.

Several years ago the North Georgia Methodist Conference placed a marker on the grave. A Cross within a circle, carrying the words, "A Faithful Minister of the Methodist Church!"

September, 1983
North Georgia Conference
Athens-Elberton District
Corinth-Pentecost Charge