The history of Powell chapel
Methodist Church -- 1858 - 1958

And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it

Matthew 16:18

Powell Chapel Methodist Church is located in the northeastern part of Carroll County, four and one half miles south of Villa Rica. It is near the Whiteburg Circuit in the LaGrange, district and in the North Georgia Conference. The present trustees are, D. C. Hembree, J. H. Boyd and L. D. Mayfield. The present pastor, Rev. Vernon Bryan, has been faithfully serving this church since 1947.

The history of this little church dates back over a century to the year 1858 when Rev. Wm. F. S. Powell, a Methodist minister, moved into Carroll County. Being a man of broad vision and having a zeal for lost souls, he readily designed a little Methodist church in the community.
He soon found that there were others of the same mind who were willing to give their work and material for this building.

Mr. Alexander Tyson, a Primitive Baptist of the community, donated a gift of an acre of land on which to build the church. Two men, namely, R. F. Harper and T. S. Bell, James B. Odenfield and J. W. Carroll were appointed as trustees and the work was soon begun.

It was not long until the Rev. Frank Powell realized this fondest dream come true. For there by the side of the road in a beautiful grove, stood a little log church covered with boards. The floor and benches were made of rough lumber but it was a building of which they were all justly proud. As the Rev. Frank Powell and the first pastor the church was given the name Powell Chapel in his honor.

Sunday after Sunday, fathers, mothers and children gathered at the little church to worship God and to sing his praise. Many times the shouts of the singing sainted mothers rose above the singing.
as they rejoiced in the blessed hope of eternal life.

Here let us pause and reverently thank God as we remember those old pioneers who trusted Him and so faithfully preserved for us this great heritage.

Now after thirty-two years we turn a new leaf in the history of the Church. Here we find most of the same old patriots carrying on but with a vision of a new and better church building. In 1882 a new wooden structure was built to take the place of the old log building. This building was a great improvement and a step forward in the history of the Church.

As the years have come and gone many beloved pastors have also come and gone but the descendants of the old pioneers are still carrying on the work of the Lord in this little Church. Many lost souls have found Christ while kneeling at its sacred Altar. Today, after the ravages of war and the storms of more than a century, this little white church still stands as a beacon
light to guide lost souls to the straight and narrow way.
It now has a small membership of almost a hundred but very much alive, spiritually. Often when the pastor has delivered his soul and the choir sings Amazing Grace or some other good old hymn, some old sainted mother will shout praises to God for his goodness.
At the close of the revival in August 1953 James Neal Williams, a young man twenty-five years old and a member of this church from childhood accepted the call to the ministry and the church is looking forward to a great future for him in God's kingdom work.
The loyal little Sunday School and the Woman's Society of Christian Service are busy at work to raise funds to build some much needed Sunday School rooms. May the spirit of God ever dwell in the hearts and lives of the member of this little church.

By
Mrs. H. E. Hembee,
President of Woman's Society of Christian Service
Oswell Chapel Church