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 church is located in the northern part of Carroll county four and one half miles south of Villa Rica. It is now on the Douglasville circuit, Rome District and in the north Georgia conference. The present trustees are H. C. Hembree, R. M. Hudgins and C. M. Williams.


The history of Powell chapel church dates back over a century to the year 1850 when Rev. William Francis Spaight Powell, a Methodist minister, moved into Carroll county. Being a man of broad vision and having a zeal for lost souls he readily dreamed of 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 as a gift, an acre of land on which to build the church.

Four men, namely, B. F. Harper, G. W. Hall, James B. Aderhold and J. W. Carroll were appointed as trustees and the work was soon begun.

It was not long until the Rev. Francis Powell realized his 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 and as the Rev. Francis Powell established the church and
was 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 log church to worship God and to sing His praise. Many times the shouts of the old 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 heritage.

Now after thirty two years we turn a new leaf in the history of this 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. A Deed was written out August 2nd, 1882 and signed by Alexander Tyson in the presence of W. J. Hembree, J. D. L. Keaton. Sworn to before J. B. Williamson J. P. W. J. Hembree (grandfather of H. C. Hembree) did the actual writing of the Deed. It was also recorded April 7, 1883. This was a great improvement and a step forward in the progress of the church.

Somewhere near the turn of the century a Sunday School was organized with Uncle Billy Boyd as he was called as first Superintendent. The record has not been faithfully kept but we thank God that the Sunday School is still going forward and is a great help in the work of the church.

As the years have come and gone many beloved pastors have come and gone but the descendents of the old pioneers are still carrying on the work of the Lord in this church. Many lost souls have found Christ while kneeling at its sacred altar.

In March of 1952 a Women's Society of Christian Service was organized with Mrs. H. C. Hembree as president. Then at the close of the revival in August James Neal Williams, a young man of the church and community accepted the call to the ministry. This was a great inspiration to the church.
Other things were also taking place. Plans were made to build four new Sunday School rooms, remodel the interior of the church and put in memorial windows.

It was a hard struggle from 1952 through 1955 but we never lost faith in God for we knew with our faith in Him we would accomplish the things we had planned and in April 1956 this work was finished.

There was yet another vision, that of a brick veneer building. Plans were made to put brick on the outside of the building and on June 1, 1957 with faith in God and all willing to work this was begun and in a little more than three months time the job was completed with all bills paid in full.

Other things were also accomplished along with the building that of a new Pulpit furniture, gas heat, carpets and a new piano. Surely we can say If God be for us who can be against us.

So today, after the ravages of war and the storms of over a century this little rural church still stands as a beacon light to guide lost souls to the straight and narrow way. May it ever go forward and hold high the blood stained banner of the cross and remember that He taught us, And I if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me.

St. John 12; 32

The cemetery is almost as old as the church. It has over 600 graves. The oldest monument is dated July 28, 1870. There are older graves but they only have rocks for markers and no dates.
PASTORS OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Wm. F. S. Powell--1850

Rev. Tom Powell

Rev. Jim Bryce (This has not been accurately kept. Some pastors may be left out)

Rev. John Bryce
Rev. Doc. Baskin
Rev. Jim Baskin
Rev. George Davenport

Rev. Harvey Mc. Whorter
Rev. S. H. Braswell
Rev. A. J. Shankles--1898--1901
Rev. Reynolds
Rev. Loy Warwick--1906
Rev. Myers---Correct from 1912
Rev. Lemaster--1912
Rev. G. P. Braswell--1913--1914
Rev. Ruben Estes
Rev. John A. Chandler--1915
Rev. G. P. Braswell--1916--1917
Rev. Marvin Swilling--1918
Rev. J. W. Veatch--1919--1921
Rev. A. E. Silvey--1922--1923
Rev. T. P. Dean--1924
Rev. G. W. Hamilton--1925--1926
Rev. G. W. Maxwell--1927
Rev. G. B. Henderson--1928--1930
Rev. L. L. Burch--1931
Rev. R. W. Green---1932--1934
Rev. A. E. Barton--1935--1936
Rev. J. K. Kelley--1937--1940
Rev. G. T. Sorrells--1941
Rev. W. S. Cruse--1942--1946
Rev. Vernon Wynn--1947--1953
Rev. Charles Johnson--1954
Rev. Hermon Smith--1955--1957
Rev. Neal Williams--Associate
Rev. Alton Smith--1958