Providence

Providence Methodist Church as best can be determined is 100 years old this year, 1951. However, Methodist preachers were at work in this section approximately 15 years before this. A small church, Epworth was built about two miles from the present location of Providence. With the division of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Providence became a Methodist Episcopal church when it was organized. When Epworth Church disbanded, most of the members came to Providence community, and with the few Methodists there, established the Providence Methodist Episcopal church. The people of this section were Northern sympathisers. In 1851 a log building was constructed near where the present building stands. This church was never large in membership but was a rather active church. It was on the Fannin County Circuit, and the Northern District.

In approximately 1910, a group from the Holiness movement came into the community. The Methodist allowed them to use their church. A great meeting was had and a "Holiness Church" was established, and built. Along with this, conflict set in between the Methodist, Baptist, and Holiness. They were all against each other. In a period of ten years, six churches were burned: one Methodist, two Baptist, and three "Holiness." As each denomination would lose its church, it would use the school. Two schools were burned. It was in this period, about 1915, that the Methodist church was burned. It was rebuilt by 1920.

After this, the conflict became less violent, the Holiness group finally gave up the community, but there is still some
bitterness between families of the community. However, the church serves its community well. In the 1930s when the T.V.A. dams were built, a large part of the population served by this church was forced to seal their homes and move. The best farm soil was covered by water. This left a rather poor and small section cut off by a lake on one side and mountains on the other. Also, as in most rural sections, people moved to the city, leaving Providence a small church. Though it was small, this church has been by far the greatest influence for good and progress in the community. With the union of the branches of the Methodist church, Providence became a part of the Union Circuit.

However, because of neglect, and the dislike for student pastors, a small faction of the church along with a faction of the Baptist Church of the community set up a community Sunday School and church. Two Baptist ministers were serving the church in 1946 and 47. During this time the charges were united and it became a member of the Blairsville-Union Circuit. Differences were ironed out and the church moved along well.

The building was in a very bad shape. In 1949 the church was moved a short distance and a nice brick building was constructed. The membership is small, but it built and paid for a $10,000.00 church in a year. Thus it may be small, the people are not wealthy, but they are not ready to die as a church. Thus they moved foward as a small group of faithful people, serving God and their community.