History

Ringgold Methodist Church

Ringgold, Ga.

June 2, 1956

Church Organized in 1845

The Ringgold Methodist Church was organized in 1845. Nothing is known of the early history of the church as the original records have either been lost or destroyed by fire.

The original building stood in the old cemetery which was known as the Methodist Cemetery now located in Ringgold on the Post Road. One report is that this building was burned by Federal Troops. Another is that it was torn down and moved to Chattanooga and used to build corrals for the horses and mules of the Federal Army. The latter report which we believe to be the true report was given by Mr. John Clark, who says came from his mother, a little girl living here at the time.

Mr. John Clark says that he remembers his mother telling him that the Church bell was taken from the old church building and placed on a pole in this corral in Chattanooga. Mr. Clark's grandfather, the late John Swope, is said to have identified this old bell at a later time and returned it to Ringgold. The Bell now hangs in the present building.

The next building was erected on the present church lot in 1885. It was built, according to reports, by Obediah Trimmier and his son R. B. Trimmier during the pastorate of Rev. J. T. Richardson.

The United States Government during the pastorate of the late Rev. M. B. Sams, paid $600.00 as reimbursement for the destruction of the original building by invading troops and this amount was used in 1925-6 during Rev. M. B. Sams pastorate to aid in the cost of the construction of the present building.

The Educational Building was added and completed in 1956 during the pastorate of the present pastor Rev. W. Henry Norris. The building has eight class rooms and a kitchen. Five of these rooms are separated by folding door and when open make a large dining room. This building provides much need Church School space.

The Church in 1952 purchased a lot consisting of one acre and adjoining the Parsonage property on Tennessee St. Plans are in the future to build a complete and modern church on this lot.

The One Hundredth Anniversary was observed Sunday October 14, 1945 during the pastorate of Rev. George W. Davis. The speakers were Rev. H. T. Smith and Rembert Sisson. Brother Smith a former pastor and Brother Sisson a former member.

Although the membership of approximately 280 is not large by some standards, the Ringgold Methodist Church is one of the North Georgia Methodist Conference's most zealous and effective.
units. For the past four years under the pastorate of Rev. W. Henry Norris, a native of Warren County, Georgia the Church has made progress.

Included in the present membership is John L. Yates, trustee, who is the only living member of the building committee when the present building was constructed.

M. L. Harris, native of Ringgold, has played prominent part in the Church's history. Mr. Harris, now a prominent Ringgold lawyer and Local Preacher was pastor of the Church in 1911, and has led over the years in many farward movements.

William Lee Childers, also a native of Ringgold was licensed to preach in 1954 and is now preparing to enter full time ministry.

The Church raised for all causes in 1956, a total of $27,933.00.

Pastors Serving the Ringgold Methodist Church since 1900.

Walter Millican 1900.
J. E. Russell 1901.
E. A. Ware 1902.
John R. Jones 1903-04.
T. M. Elliott 1905.
J. H. Bailey 1906-07.
A. M. Sprayberry 1908-09.
N. A. Farsons 1910.
M. L. Harris 1911.
D. P. Johnston 1916.
Lucian Roper 1917.
J. S. Hill 1918.
R. E. Rutland 1921-22.

W. A. Woodruff 1929-30.
J. L. Hall 1931-32-33-34-35.
J. B. Smith 1936.
L. G. Hendricks 1937-38.
M. M. Brackman 1939-40.
H. F. Lawhorn 1941-42-43-44.
C. C. Cliett 1949-50.
W. F. Lunsford 1951-52.
W. Henry Norris 1953-54-55-56.