

1978 Augusta Dist

HISTORY  
of  
GROVETOWN CHARGE  
Riverview Church 1949

THE HISTORY OF RIVERVIEW METHODIST CHURCH

The Riverview Methodist Church is located twelve miles northwest of Augusta, Ga., on the Furey's Ferry Road near Evans, Ga. It was so named because of its unique building site. The church is on the crest of a hill of such elevation that the entire surrounding area and the Savannah River can be seen from it.

The idea for a Church in this community was first fostered by Mrs. Sam H. Baston and Mrs. O'Neal Baston. These ladies consulted Mr. Irvin Richards, who was Lay Leader of the Burns Memorial Methodist Church, and it was decided to start the church by holding prayer meetings in the homes of the community.

The first prayer meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal Baston on April 1, 1948 with thirty-nine person present. The Rev. Robert Taylor and Mr. Irvin Richards led the meeting.

The first Sunday School organization meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Baston with thirty-two persons present. The meeting was held on April 11, 1948, and proceeded as follows:

1. Hymn - "He Keeps Me Singing"
2. Prayer - by Carl Richards
3. Hymn - "Rescue the Perishing,"
4. Scripture Reading - Rev. Robert Taylor
5. Election of Officers:

Mrs. B. W. McManus - Teacher (Nursery Dept.)  
Mrs. O. W. Bartlett - Teacher (Beginners Dept.)  
Mrs. B. W. McManus, Sr. - Teacher (Primary Dept.)  
Mrs. Sam Baston - Teacher (Junior Dept.)  
Mrs. O'Neal Baston - Teacher (Young Peoples Dept.)  
Mr. O'Neal Baston - Sunday School Superintendent  
Mr. Wendell Bartlett - Secretary

It was decided that a workers meeting was to be held once a month. The meeting was adjourned, and Rev. Taylor led the benediction. Those adults present included members of the Mize and Burns Methodist Churches. It was during this period that plans were made to construct a church building.

The site previously mentioned was selected on which to build. This site was located on the property of Mr. Sam Baston and after it was definitely decided to build, Mr. Baston donated this portion of his property to the Church. Mr. O'Neal Baston donated his services with his bulldozer to clear this tract and all was in readiness for the building.

The first preaching service of the church was held under a large oak tree on the building site on June 27, 1948. Services were conducted by the Rev. Robert Taylor and thirteen charter members were received into the church. A resume of the service is as follows:

Hymn - "Higher Ground"  
Hymn - "Glory to His Name"  
Prayer - Mr. Irvin Richards  
Scripture and Sermon Text - Matthew 4 - Jesus Calls Disciples  
Prayer - Rev. Taylor  
Sermon - Rev. Taylor  
Hymn - "Jesus Is Calling"  
Reception of Members  
Prayer - Rev. Taylor  
Hymn - "Blest be the Tie That Binds"  
Benediction - Rev. Taylor

The members received into the church were: Mr. Sam Baston, Mrs. Sam Baston, Mr. O'Neal Baston, Mrs. O'Neal Baston, Louise W. Baston, Claude O. Baston, Al Baston, Eugene Baston, Annie Lee Baston, Virginiann Baston, Mrs. Dave Jackson, June Jackson, and Jane Jackson.

Regular services began Sept. 12, 1948, continuing each second and fourth Sunday thereafter.

On June 30, 1948, the church bought a wooden revival tent from Mr. Baranowski of the Feedright Milling Co. with the idea of setting it up and holding services in it, but after tearing it down (it was then located in Langley, S. C.) and moving it to the Riverview site, it was decided to build a more permanent structure, using as much of the tent structure as possible.

Mr. Clyde Pardue donated the use of his cement block plant to the church for making enough cement blocks for the ~~formation~~

foundation of the present building. Through the efforts of Mr. Sam Baston, Mr. O'Neal Baston, Claude Baston, Al Baston, Gene Baston and Raymond Wingate, enough cement blocks were made within a week.

On August 6, 1948, the foundation of the church was laid, two colored men hired from J. H. Marshall did the masonry and the job was completed in one day.

During the period from August 1948 to June 1949, Sunday School was usually held in the home of Mrs. Sam Baston and preaching service was held in the home of Mrs. O'Neal Baston. It was during this period that two more members joined the church: Mrs. Claude Baston and Mr. Dave Jackson. Money was raised or donated at intervals and put into the church building. Through the efforts put forth by the members of Mize and Burns Churches, as well as by the members of River-view, the building was hulled in so that it could be used for services by June, 1949.

The first service held in the church building started with a revival on June 5, 1949, conducted by Rev. Robert Taylor. The doors of the church were opened each night of the revival, and on Friday, June 19, 1949, four new members were received into the church: George Crawford, Bill Jackson, George I. Wingate, and Raymond Wingate. The revival ended on June 12, 1949 with a Quarterly Conference Meeting and a barbecue dinner-on-the-ground.

At the Annual Conference, held shortly after the revival, Rev. Taylor was transferred to another church and in his stead the church was fortunate to get Rev. James Budd as Pastor.

Through donations and diligent work of the members, the church building has been improved considerably. It has been ceiled and varnished. Two Sunday School rooms have been added. A tile floor has been laid. Pews, donated by St. Mark Methodist Church, have been placed in the sanctuary; and the rostrum and altar are being completed. The Sunday School and church membership continue to grow in number & spirit.