

## ROUND OAK METHODIST CHURCH - History, 1875 - 1951

This little church on the hill at Round Oak, Ga., above a sleepy little country neighborhood - has, for many years been a part - sometimes important - sometimes not so important a part of the Gray charge, Decatur - Oxford District of the North Georgia Conference.

A handful of members trying to finance the church - since many members, still on the church roll are scattered all over the earth. Two men who have been most successful in life still contribute to the upkeep of the church of their childhood. Moses Gordon of Commerce and Dr. B.L. White of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Some say it is only a matter of time until the church must close its doors. If and when that sad day arrives, the church will no longer stand as a beacon light to successive generations, a gentle reminder of God and his love, a rallying point for Methodism in this section.

I seem to see the early fathers of the church, walking down the years of time, as strong in the faith, love and devotion of God and this church, as the homespun clothes they wore. There was Mr. Robert J. Smith, the leader in building this church. He and his wife, Mrs. Sallie Barron Smith donated the land for the church and the cemetery. There were Mr. and Mrs. John P. Hunt - Mr. and Mrs. Frank White - Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Barron, the Marshalls, the Haskells, White's, all active in getting the church built - in 1875.

Then the dedication service by Rev. Sam Jones. The first ministers to serve this charge were: K. Reid, G.W. Hardaway, W.A. Rogers, J.H. Brooks, C.V. Weathers, W.F. Smith, H.L. Embry, M.A. Phillips, Ellison Cook, J.T. Richardson, M.H. Edwards, R.A. Seal, G.W. Farr, W.F. McKlesky, J.P. Erwin - that takes us up to 1900.

Bishop Warren Candler as a young man preached here once.

The first funeral in the new church was the seven year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Smith - Sallie B. The first wedding, Miss Daisy and Jack Eders. The first infant baptism was Thos. R. White, July 29, 1884.

The first three Sunday School Superintendents were R.J. Smith, W.F. White, J.W. Barron.

These people and others gave the church its spiritual fibre, while the church in turn, gave them much.

There are those, who down thru the years served by placing flowers, cleaning, filling the old oil lamps, making the fires, cutting the grass, building the tables for those luscious dinners on the grounds at Quarterly meetings.

In 1940 the church was repaired, painted, electric lights put in and two rooms divided off for Sunday School.

Perhaps the old church has memories too, where the tall pines with glistening needles whisper to one another, some of the memories were sad, as one by one, the faithful Christians were placed in the cemetery - as each succeeding generation carried on the traditions of the church.

The day when the old wheezy organ was carried out, and a piano was installed was a glad day. The Woman's Missionary Society was a strong arm of the church. Many the child who first learned of Christ in the Sunday School, and from the pulpit.

The wars were anxious times - 1898 - 1918- 1940 - Korea - she saw the passing of some devoted members, old and young - but worst of all, those who wandered away from her influence and never came back. Then there were those in the community who would not come to hear God's word!

The problem facing us today - what? More interest is needed. A greater effort must be put forth to meet the spiritual needs of this day and time, - the people also to tithe their means. We need help of many kinds, but most important, probably the help we can, with God's guidance, give ourselves - we must not let our church die, - we can not measure its worth in dollars and cents.

#### Charter Members.

Mr.&Mrs. R.J.Smith	
" Geo.B.J.White	
Mr.Joseph I.Coulter	
Mrs.Ellie F.Barron	
Mrs.M.Goodson	
Mr.Jesse Barfield	
Mrs.Elizabeth Coulter	
Mrs.Alice Counter	
Mrs.Ann Green	
Mrs.Ann Haskell	
Mrs. Mary Hunt	
Mr.Edgar Hunt	
Mr.Jesse Hunt	
Mrs. Elizabeth Hunt	
Miss Hattie Hunt	
Mr.Clay Marshall	

Mrs. & Mrs. W.F.White	
Mr.J.W.Barron	
Ben Barron	
W.M.Knowles	
Mrs. Annie B.Williams	
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H.G.Middlebrooks	
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