HISTORY
OF
RUTLEDGE METHODIST CHURCH
RUTLEDGE, GEORGIA
NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE

Mrs. Marcus J. Hollis,
Historian.
The lot on which the Rutledge Methodist Church now stands was bought April 4th, 1902 from Mr. William Gregory and wife, for the consideration of $65.00 (sixty-five dollars), paid in hand, sold, released and conveyed unto Edward Hutcheson, G. L. Williams and A. A. Barker, Trustees of the Rutledge Methodist Episcopal Church, South; North Georgia Conference. Records of this warranty deed to be found in Deed Book Y - pages 103-104, Madison Courthouse, Morgan County.

The Rev. J. W. Taylor was Pastor of the Methodist Church in 1902, and was probably the architect and main builder of Rutledge Methodist Church, assisted by members of the church.

The late Mrs. Victoria Hanson and her daughter Miss Jessie Hanson, (later Mrs. W. W. Ballard), sincere and consecrated members of the Rutledge Methodist Church, were generous contributors to the upkeep of the church and parsonage - a small house of five rooms on same lot with church, and used for pastor and family until 1924, when the Conference saw fit to take Rutledge Methodist Church from the Athens-Elberton District and place with Social Circle in Decatur-Oxford District. Our pastor lives in parsonage
at Social Circle and preaches at Rutledge every second Sunday, morning and evening services; also every fifth Sunday, morning and evening services.

No preachers have gone out from this church, and this church has not sponsored any other church.

There have been twenty-four pastors sent by North Georgia Conference to serve this church, now fifty years old.

The present church is not the first Methodist Church building - Before this building, there stood, on opposite side of street, on the driveway to Rutledge Cemetery, a small frame church. A few of the living citizens of Rutledge remember attending Sunday school and church services there. Mr. A. A. Barker was Sunday school Superintendent at this little church, and also Supt. of Sunday school for many years in the church in which we now worship -- having served as Supt. of Methodist Sunday school for thirty (30) years.

Our present Sunday school Superintendent James W. Hollis, has been superintendent for sixteen (16) years.

We do not know the cost of church in which we now worship, much of lumber was donated, and the Rev. J. W. Taylor assisted by members of the church, constructed the building. The church has been repainted, repaired and re-roofed many times during the 50 years it has been in use.

The parsonage was sold several years ago, and the money received for sale of it was invested in Georgia
Railroad stock, which will now be used in our new, brick church building, now under construction.

The lot on which the new Methodist Church is being built, was donated to our Trustees by Mr. Roy W. Wallace, a member of the Rutledge Baptist Church. The present Trustees of the Methodist Church are: Mr. Frank Haile, Mr. J. J. Davis, Dr. J. L. Porter, Mr. Emory Barker and Mr. J. A. Gibbs.

The women's work of the Methodist Church we know to be as old as the present church - beginning as Parsonage Aid Society, later Woman's Missionary Society, and now the Woman's Society of Christian Service. A good number of our members were present at the Organizational meeting of the W. S. C. S. at Marietta, Georgia in 1940. We have 24 members in W. S. C. S. Mrs. Roy W. Wallace was our first President of W. S. C. S. There were 21 charter members enrolled. We sent to our Treasurer in 1940 $60.00 (sixty dollars). In 1952 we sent $119.57 including Lent offering, Cultivation Fund and Week of Prayer offering.

Many spiritual revivals have been held in the Rutledge Methodist Church, the most notable being a union meeting of Baptist and Methodist congregations held in Methodist Church in 1904. Rev. McCutcheon, Baptist minister, and Rev. Sullivan, Methodist minister conducted the services. Rev. Gaines was pastor of Methodist Church at that time. Sixty-eight (68) joined
the two churches during this revival.

Another splendid revival was in 1921, when the late W. R. England was pastor of the Methodist Church, and had Rev. B. F. Frazier of Atlanta to conduct the services for ten days. Great interest was manifested and many young people united with church.

Another notable occasion was the dedication of the chimes, donated by fellow-church members and friends in honor of our greatly beloved Dr. J. L. Porter, in his 41st year of medical service to Rutledge families and surrounding communities. Our District Superintendent, Rev. C. L. Middlebrooks, gave the dedicatory address to a large assemblage of friends and patients of Dr. Porter. A delicious dinner was spread, picnic fashion, on long tables in High School gymnasium, after the address. The chimes will be moved to our new brick church.

The present membership of our church is seventy-five (75), yet we contribute more to support of church and all causes than years ago when we had a larger membership.

The older members love the old church because of the heartfelt memories of seeing our children give their hearts to the Lord around the altar. This altar is a hand carved one that was either bought by Mrs. Victoria Hanson, or possibly donated by the First Methodist Church in Atlanta when they moved their
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church farther out on Peachtree St. at Porter Place.

Our old church is inadequate for all phases of church work now - no Sunday school rooms, no central heating system. Our new church will have all these as well as other advantages.

Our membership is very happy that we are to have a new and up-to-date church building. Each and every member is working very hard to make the new church possible, contributing their all in time, money and prayer; and with God's help we shall see our efforts rewarded. We ask the prayers of our fellow Methodists.

Our pastor for past three years is Rev. R. W. Ridgeway - a good pastor, a splendid preacher, and he is dearly loved by his churches, Social Circle and Rutledge.

Below is a complete list of pastors serving Rutledge Methodist Church:

Rev. J. W. Taylor 1902-1903
Rev. Mr. Gaines 1904
Rev. L. A. McLaughlin 1905
Rev. J. L. Ware 1906-1907
Rev. J. M. Fowler 1908
Rev. J. M. Crowe 1909
Rev. G. T. Sorrells 1910-1912
Rev. J. J. Copeland 1913-1914
Rev. G. C. Knowles 1915-1916
Rev. V. A. Roark 1917-1918
Rev. W. H. Spear 1919-1920
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Rev. W. R. England 1921-1922
Rev. J. T. Burdett 1923-1924

(Beginning Social Circle and Rutledge Circuit)

Rev. J. S. Strickland 1924
Rev. C. A. Hall 1925-1926-1927-1928
Rev. B. L. Betts 1929
Rev. Eubanks 1930-1931-1932
Rev. J. J. Copeland 1933-1934-1935
Rev. C. B. Drake 1936-1937
Rev. A. E. Scott 1938-1939
Rev. J. O. Brand 1940-1941