

So. Lincoln Cir.
(Augusta D) 158

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL METHODIST CHURCH

This church was constituted in 1898 with eighteen members to begin with. It really is a reorganization of Camp ground church which was disbanded about 1894. At first services were held under a brush arbor, but in 1899 the present building located about six miles from south of Lincolnton was erected. The funds were primarily raised from the sale of the camp ground to A.H. Tyler and contributions. At the completion of the building the membership had doubled and interest ran high. A.H. Tyler was the first steward and W.T. Cartledge and Benjamin Fortson were the first trustees. Rev. W.S. Gaines was the first pastor while services were held in the arbor. Other pastors in their order were, A.J. Sears and B.C. Prickett, 1899; A.J. Sears, 1900; and J.F. Yarbrough, 1901; J.F. Yarbrough and H.C. Emory, 1902-03; B.P. Seracy and H.J. Strother, 1904; A.D. Echols and Arthur Manes, 1905-6; W.L. Singleton and C. A. Teasley, 1907. In 1908 this church was made a part of the South Lincolnton charge as it is today. During that year a parsonage was built near St. Paul for the pastor serving the charge, a Sunday School with W. L. Candler as superintendent was organized with the church and for a while alternated Sundays with the Baptist church in the community. They agreed later however for the Methodist to have morning Sunday school and the Baptist to have afternoon services. This rule is still held today. Other superintendents were, A.H. Tyler; J.W. Edmunds; C.H. Tyler; J.H. Revieire; J.A. Ferguson; J.L. White and W.M. Smalley the present one. The church and Sunday school are both doing well today and it has proved a blessing to the community through the years.