

Rome Second Avenue Methodist Church

February 15, 1950

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HISTORY

Of

ROME SECOND AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

Second Avenue Methodist Church

February 15, 1950

In the year 1887 the people of the East Rome community felt the need of a Sunday School. Soon after the school was organized it became necessary to have larger quarters. Mr. G. C. Wyatt gave the ground for a small building, which was known as Wyatt's Chapel. In this chapel Howard Avenue Methodist Church was organized in 1890. (Howard Avenue was changed to Second Avenue some years later). Twenty-eight charter members are listed in the old Church Register. Bishop Keener appointed Rev. J. E. Rorie as the first pastor. Church services were held at various places for a few years until a suitable site could be found for a building. A lot was bought at the corner of East 8th Street and Howard Avenue and services were conducted for a while in a tent. This property was deeded the 17th day of September, 1895, between Samuel Funkhouser, Agent of the County of Floyd, and H. B. Parks, J. W. Hale, John Braude, S. J. Hagin, Charles Hamilton, J. D. Chapman, and A. Allen, as Trustees of Howard Avenue Methodist Church. This was deeded to the trustees for the sum of one dollar.

With the coming of Rev. A. A. Tilly as pastor in 1895, plans for a church building were started. Mr. George Murphy drew the plans and specifications, for which he made no charge. Much of the work on the building was done by members who were glad to give their time to it.

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From Conference Minutes of 1903:

(1949)

Pastor's salary	\$500.00
Presiding Elder	100.00
The Bishop	14.00
Conference Claims	75.00
Missions	80.00
Church Extension	50.00

Pastor's Salary	\$3,000.00
District Supt.	270.00
Bishop's Fund	52.50
Conference Claims	360.00
Benevolences	600.00

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Second Avenue Methodist Church is known as "The Friendly Church". It has grown through the years and additions have been made to the building from time to time. In 1941 the church was damaged by fire. There was not enough insurance to cover the loss, but the faithful members soon had sufficient funds in hand to take care of restoring the church and making it more attractive than before. The main auditorium was completely gone over, a new choir loft built, stained glass windows were given by the Chapman family in memory of their mother and father, a Hammond organ was purchased. The cost of repairs and improvements was approximately \$3,000.00.

Early in 1948 plans were made to build an annex to the church to take care of the crowded condition of the Church School. Investigation was made concerning the property surrounding the church in order that this addition might be made. The ground adjoining the church was owned by the Rome Rotary Club and the needed portion was sold to the church by the Club for the sum of \$1.00. The deed was made on the 16th day of March 1948. In the fall of 1948 work was started on the building and in January 1949 the new Church School Annex was completed at a cost of \$16,726.22. This two-story structure contains class rooms, nursery, large recreation room, kitchen, and rest rooms. The annex has been a wonderful addition to the church and is used and enjoyed by the entire membership. The new building was dedicated by Bishop Arthur Moore in an impressive service the first Sunday in January, 1949.

During the summer of 1949 funds amounting \$3,294.24 were raised to remodel the parsonage. It is now one of the most attractive homes you will find anywhere.

There are now 416 members on roll at Second Avenue Methodist Church. The Church School membership is 254. There are three active circles of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The Wesleyan Service Guild is one of the most active organizations of the church. There are 65 members on roll. A Men's Club has been organized in the last few years. This Club has a dinner meeting once each month and is helping with many worth-while projects of the church.

In September 1949 Second Avenue Church cooperated with the other Methodist Churches of Rome in sponsoring a city-wide revival, which was held at the City Auditorium, with Bishop Arthur Moore, as speaker, and Dr. Homer Rodeheaver, song leader. These meetings were attended by several thousand people each evening from Rome and surrounding territory.

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On the following pages are listed former Presiding Elders of the Rome District, former pastors of Second Avenue Church, charter members, and Sunday School Superintendents.

Sunday School Superintendents

E. L. Ledbetter

I. T. O'Bryan

H. B. Parks

Mr. Blalock

W. L. Daniel

J. P. Reid

J. C. Lifsey

Charter Members (as listed in Church Register - 1890)

(J. E. Rorie, Pastor)

Mrs. J. H. Hartin
I. S. Dalton
Mrs. Sarah A. Dalton
F. M. Carwile
J. W. Hamilton
Mrs. S. J. Hamilton
D. S. Lee
Mrs. M. E. Lee
Mrs. Alice Evans
J. P. Lanham
Mrs. M. E. Lanham
Miss Alice Lanham
George W. Yarbrough
Mrs. M. B. Yarbrough
Miss M. L. Yarbrough
J. Emory Yarbrough
J. M. Wardlaw
Mrs. J. M. Taylor
Miss Alma M. Taylor
Miss Lou M. Taylor
Mrs. C. Lilla Vest
Mrs. M. S. Ansley
Robert Flemister
Mrs. S. I. Flemister
Mrs. Ruth Head
Mrs. M. C. Ford
Mrs. Naomi Lyle
Miss Sallie E. Lyle

Rome District Presiding Elders

J. C. Simmons.....	1858
J. W. Yarbrough.....	1859
J. W. Glenn.....	1860
A. G. Haygood.....	1867-68
W. P. Harrison.....	1869
H. J. Adams.....	1870
G. J. Pearce.....	1871
W. F. Cook.....	1874
W. P. Plädger.....	1875-76
S. P. Richardson.....	1877-80
W. F. Glenn.....	1881-83
T. F. Pierce.....	1884-87
J. W. Roberts.....	1888
A. C. Thomas.....	1889-90
W. P. Lovejoy.....	1891-92
J. T. Gibson.....	1893
T. F. Pierce.....	1894-97
J. H. Eakes.....	1898
J. F. Mixon.....	1899-00
J. W. Heidt.....	1901
W. F. Glenn.....	1902
W. R. Foote.....	1903-04
S. B. Ledbetter.....	1905-08
John S. Jenkins.....	1909-11
W. B. Dillard.....	1912
J. H. Eakes.....	1913-16
J. R. King.....	1917-20
W. T. Irvine.....	1921-24
J. P. Erwin.....	1925-28
George L. King.....	1929-32
J. W. O. McKibben.....	1933-36
Harvey H. Holland.....	1937-38
W. H. LaPrade.....	1939-42
Frank B. Pim.....	1943-46
Wills M. Jones.....	1947---

Pastors of Second Avenue Methodist Church

J. E. Rorie.....	1890
C. A. Jamison.....	1891-93
William Murdock.....	1894
A. A. Tilley.....	1895-98
J. D. Turner.....	1899
A. M. Pierce.....	1900
C. P. Marchman.....	1901-02
H. D. Pace.....	1903
E. D. Hale.....	1904-05
J. M. Sewell.....	1906
W. M. Winn.....	1907
J. R. Speer.....	1908
A. M. Smith.....	1909
Irby Henderson.....	1910-11
C. K. Henderson.....	1912-13
V. P. Scoville.....	1914
G. S. Fraser.....	1915
J. O. Pettis.....	1916
J. E. Parker.....	1917
G. M. Acree.....	1918
C. D. Read.....	1919
B. S. Fleming.....	1920-21
J. J. Copelan.....	1922-23
A. E. Silvey.....	1924-25
W. A. Simmons.....	1926-27
J. F. Davis.....	1928
M. C. Allen.....	1929-32
J. J. M. Mize.....	1933
T. M. Elliott.....	1934-35
Geo. W. Barrett.....	1936-37
Sewell H. Dixon.....	1938-39
Arthur Maness.....	1940-43
J. V. Jones.....	1944
P. M. Minter.....	1945-----