

HISTORY OF SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH

Shiloh Methodist Church is on the Holly Springs Charge, the Atlanta-West District, North Ga. Conference. It is located in the fifteenth District and the second section of Cherokee County. The site is two miles east of Holly Springs.

It was first Shiloh Camp Ground and was often called Steer-head Camp Ground. In its early history someone killed a steer and hung its head upon a tree near the grounds. The origin of this meeting ground is not known nor the exact time when it was organized. No record can be located for information and the people now living can remember no farther back than around 1880. The church had been there for some time in 1880.

Recorded in the Clerk's office of the Superior Court, Cherokee County Court House in Book R., page 350 where John H. Wood, on September 8, 1851 made a deed to Shiloh Camp Ground for lot no. 194 in the 15th District and Second section containing forty acres for the sum of \$100.00. The trustees of the Camp ground were J. L. Keith, J. N. Garrison, James Jordan, John H. Reinhardt, Fredrick Freeman, E. E. Fields, and Joseph McConnel. The last record found of the Camp Ground is 1882. In 1902 thirty acres of the land was sold and a deed was made for the remaining ten acres from A. A. Chapman, J. W. Chapman, J. W. McCollum, J. N. Brand, and H. S. Owen, trustees of Shiloh Camp Ground, to H. S. Owen, Obie Brand and A. K. Scott as trustees of Shiloh Church and their successors in office. Some time since that there has been five more acres sold. The present church and cemetery are on the remaining five acres.

Some people still living remember the camp ground, with its great revivals and grove meetings. The men were in one grove and the women in another.

There was a Sunday School there before they knew anything of any Church School literature. The adults carried the Bible and the children carried the old Blue Back Speller. They had teachers and leaders in the Sunday School who are still remembered.

II. Shiloh Preachers.

If there was a record kept of Shiloh's early history it cannot be found. The older folks remember the preachers only by how they looked, or dressed, or acted. Mr. Charlie Chapman and Mrs. Oscar Thompson remember a preacher Sullivan preaching there around 1885. A preacher called Uncle Luke, who wore a great long beard helped in revivals. Sullivan preached once a month and there were local preachers: McCollum, McClure, and Rutledge who would preach there once and sometimes twice a month. Mrs. Thompson remembers going to Camp meeting there when only a small child. They had a preacher whom they called Uncle Dempsy, who was known for his shouting.

The name of the first charge Shiloh was on is not known. The first pastor remembered by people living now was Sullivan who lived at White, Ga. (Near Cartersville) in Bartow County and would ride

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on a horse and come on Friday, spend the night with some members, and preach on Saturday morning. At one time Shiloh was on the Hickory Flat Charge with the parsonage at Lebanon, sometimes called Too-Nigh. Later the parsonage was moved to Holly Springs, in 1897. In the fall of 1897 Rev. L. D. Coggins was assigned as the first pastor to live in the Holly Springs parsonage.

Some of the preachers who served Shiloh in the years from 1880-1897 were: J. A. Sullivan, W. H. Cooper, J. C. Watts and C. M. Allen. 1897, L. D. Coggins. 1898-1900 J. L. Watts. 1901 J. R. Speer and J. E. Russell. 1902-1904 T. J. Dillard. 1905-06 J. R. Allen. 1907-09 P. Z. Fretfull. 1910 E. A. Shields. 1911-13 R. I. Johnston. 1914 J. C. Crow. 1915-16 W. E. Purcell. 1917 J. H. Bailey and Odum Clark. 1918 J. A. Chandler. 1919-20 G. T. Shell. 1921-22 John L. Moore. 1923-24 W. H. Speer. 1925 L. M. Davidson. 1926-27 J. M. Perry. 1928-29 A. J. Willingham.

From 1930-38 Shiloh was put with two other churches named Shiloh which were all weak. These were called Triple Shiloh. A local preacher, Hugh Lee Johnston, was assigned to this work for two years. Then L. G. Marlin served until 1938 when Shiloh was put back on the Holly Springs Charge. However, there weren't any more services there until 1940 when Loran Parker was sent to the Holly Springs Charge. (1940-41)

1942-43 Thomas E. Fowler. 1944-45 James M. Barker. 1946-47 Norris King. In November of 1947 J. M. Godbey was sent to Holly Springs as assistant to Norris King. He took four of the eight churches on the circuit and gave them Sunday morning services. Shiloh was one of these. 1948 M. L. Bartley, J. M. Godbey, assist. 1949 C. E. Spier, J. M. Godbey assist. 1950 C. E. Spier, Harold E. Braswell, Asst. 1951 J. W. Entwistle, Harold E. Braswell asst. 1952 Willie P. Berkner, Kenneth Criswell, asst. 1953-1956 Loran Parker, retired, served Shiloh. 1956-57, Hurtiss Watson. Spring, 1957, Rev. Roscoe Hutchins, local preacher.

Shiloh has sent out two preachers from its own congregation. Jesse Oliver Brand, retired of the North Georgia Conference, and Charlie Fleming, deceased, and buried in Shiloh cemetery.

III. The Present Shiloh Church.

The present building was built around 1875-1880. It is a wooden structure 30 X 40 feet.

For twenty years before 1953 Shiloh was neglected. Members moved away. But during the pastorate of James M. Godbey (1947-49) a piano was purchased, the church painted, and electricity put in. Rev. Harold Braswell was instrumental in getting a new floor. But still there was no Church School and preaching was once a month on third Sunday. The church only had five members.

During the time L. G. Marlin was pastor in 1935 or 1936 Union Arbor Baptist Church was organized and used Shiloh Church building until they were able to build (about one-fourth mile away) New Hope Baptist Church was organized in Shiloh Church in the spring of 1945 and used the church until they built. At that time J. M. Barker was pastor of Shiloh and services were held on fourth Sunday afternoon.

In August, 1952 a Church School was organized. In October, 1953 the church was given to Loran Parker, retired minister. The church had four members. One year later there were fourteen members. The church became half time. A new altar, pulpit, pews, and

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carpet was purchased. The church is now very active. Hurtiss Watson succeeded Loran Parker in April, 1956. Under his leadership a prayer meeting was organized. A Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized under Loran Parker.

Rev. Roscoe Hutchins, a local preacher from Tillman Methodist, Smyrna, was given Shiloh in February, 1957. Shiloh is still a part of Holly Springs Circuit. The pastor of Holly Springs charge in 1956-57 is James William Dupree, and the assistant is Calvin Ward.

Respectively Submitted,

Mrs. Grace Fowler, Historian
Canton, Ga., Rte. 2

Rev. J. William Dupree, pastor
Holly Springs, Ga.

February, 1957

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Shiloh Church in Mica Community of Cherokee County was abandoned as a preaching place in 1918. An REA line has been built in the community, A road paved within a few miles of the church and new homes built nearby. The people want the church restored. A revival was held in the woods by the church in 1954. Rev W H Bowman is preaching there one Sunday a month and we wish to sell the present building, and build a new one on the same location. It cannot be done without aid and assistance from the Expansion Day Committee.

Zach C Hayes
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