FROM A VISIT ON COMES OUR HERITAGE

History of Shiloh United Methodist Church
Thomson, Ga.
Augusta District N, Ga. Conference

Come with us on a journey through the pages of time. Picture a small group of people—perhaps inspired by the preaching of Bishop Asbury as he travelled through Georgia—banding together to form a small Methodist group. The time is sometime after 1800. The meeting place a brush arbor by a spring located between Sharon Baptist Church which was already a flourishing church, having been organized in 1799 and on what is now property belonging to Josephine and Julius Dozier.

Later this group, with a desire to establish a more permanent place, moved a mile west built a church and named it Shiloh.

This place of worship was a rectangular building twenty by thirty feet opened on one side with an adjoining shed for the Negroes. The windows were batten shutters. The pulpit a box ten feet high with steps leading up from the floor. Since it was four by five feet it would accommodate two preachers.

Our first records show a deed for a plot of ground dated September 14, 1825. A gift from Green Dozier to Patrick Dougherty, Basil Neal and Ralph Briscoe, Commissioners (as the Trustees were first known) of the Methodist Episcopal Meeting House known by the name of Shiloh.

In 1829 another small plot was given by Walter Briscoe to these same Commissioners. This plot contained a spring which was very essential in those days.

In 1858 the Trustees, as they were now called, bought the lumber to build a new church which is the present structure. The materials were bought from Walter Morris and Co. The bill amounted to $380.96. This was paid in 1860 by R.S. Neal who was a Trustee.

One third of the space with a door at the back made provision for the slaves to worship. As late as 1890 there were Negro members at Shiloh. After that time they formed their own church known as Hosea's Chapel.

In 1873 there were new boundaries and a new deed. Green Dozier to Dr. W.A. Collins, W.A. Dunn, F.M. Fuller and John H. Boyd, Trustees. This makes five acres and the land as it now stands.

In 1908 the church was remodeled. The pulpit was placed at the back with recessed windows. A wall was placed across the front forming the vestibule. A new roof and paint, a new organ and hymn books were bought. From 1942 to the present time there have been extensive improvements and remodeling. Most of it done by the members. The new addition of Fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms was added in 1974.

Until 1897 Shiloh was served by the pastor of the Thomson church.

W.A. Florence was the first pastor of record followed by J.M. Dicky.

Felix Brown-1871
Leonard Rush-1872-75
W.T. Hamilton-1875-77
W.C. Dunlap-1877-80
John A. Reynolds-1880-82
T.H. Timmons-1882-83
C.C. Carey-1883-85
R.W. Rogers-1885-86
J.M. White-1886-89
J.T. Richardson-1888-1890

A.W. Williams-1890-94
R.F. Eakes-1894-96
J.W. Lowery-1896-97
Tumlin-1897-1900
After 1897 Shiloh was placed on a circuit. T.H. Timmons was the first pastor.

The Circuit was composed of Appling, Dunn's Chapel, Shiloh, St. Mary's and probably Whiteoak.

St. Mary's was located on the Columbia road near where Lewis Memorial Church now stands on land belonging to the Clantons. By January 1917 this church was no longer being used by the Methodist but had been bought by the Baptist of Appling and moved there to be used as a chapel. It was placed by a spring and used until the new Kiokee church was built. Then the building was sold. (this information furnished by Mr. Jake Pollard, Sr.)

In 1929 this became a five point circuit serving Camak, Macadonia, Mesena, Whiteoak and Shiloh. In 1972 it assumed its present form of Whiteoak, Shiloh and Appling. Appling church is now closed.

In 1878 the Shiloh Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized by Rev. W.C. Dunlap. There were thirteen members enrolled. Mrs. W.C. Fulton was the first president, Mrs. R.S. Neal was the second President beginning in 1880 and served for twenty eight years. Shiloh's was the first money paid into the N. Ga. Conference treasury by a rural society.

The list of those who were a part of this church and made a contribution to its growth is long. Many have departed to be with the Lord, but their memory endures to encourage and influence all who remain and those who will come after us. The church will continue to grow and change with future generations as they inherit the vision of the great heritage that is ours.

Josephine N. Doggett
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PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED SHILOH

G.C. Burtz 1928-31
A.P. Watkins 1931-35
H.L. Wood 1935-37
O.L. Vickery 1937-38
J.S. Hill 1938-40
R.E. Lyle 1940-41
R.W. Green 1942
H.F. Barfield 1943-47
J.F. Rollins 1948
W.W. Byington 1949-51
O.J. Withrow 1952-53
W.M. Tribble 1954-57
James H. Turner 1958
Charles Clarke 1959
Al Key 1960-61
Charles D. Poole 1962
Herbert Chisenhall 1963-64
T.F. Ellison 1965-66
Freeman Porter 1967-69
Howard Odum 1970-71
Hugh Page 1972-75
Eugene Westbrook 1975-76
John B.F. Smith 1977-82
Frank Driskell 1982 present pastor