HISTORY
of
ROME SOUTH BROAD METHODIST CHURCH
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(Adapted from a history written by Mark Eubanks in 1926 and later brought up to date by a committee consisting of Milton Tippin, Robert L. Green and Mrs. Virginia Bennett, assisted by Rev. Benson C. Barrett.)

One Sunday afternoon in 1873 a group of earnest men and women came together and organized a Sunday School in one of the old buildings on the Fair Grounds which, at that time, were situated from East Twelfth Street South along the east side of Cave Spring Road, this territory now being a part of Anchor Duck Village. This Sunday School was organized under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and had among its first members Judge Henry J. Johnson (then, and until his death in 1892, Ordinary of Floyd County) together with members of his family; George S. Brown and family; Judge Samuel Mobley; some of the family of John T. Powell and Rev. Irby Patillo, a local preacher. Mr. Patillo was the first Superintendent of the Sunday School and frequently preached at the Fair Grounds. Rev. B. B. Quillian, who was in charge of the Georgia School for the Deaf, at Cave Spring, Georgia, often came over and preached to congregations here.

At that time South Rome was a small and separate Corporation known as Hillsboro, its population numbering less than two hundred, including all races.

From 1873 to 1875 the Sunday School grew under wise and persistent efforts of the laity until it was decided that a Church should, and could, be organized. Such was done in 1875, in the home of Judge Johnson, and thus was born the Church out of which has grown
the present congregation.

After the organization came the question of a house of worship. Mr. Phillip Cohen, a big-hearted and Orthodox Jew, gave to the Church a large lot on East Main Street near Glover Street and it was here that the original Church was built and given the name "Cohen's Chapel" which must have been the only Methodist Church in the Conference named after a living Orthodox Jew. This first building was completed in 1876.

The Annual Conference of 1876 was presided over by Bishop Pierce and the Presiding Elder of Rome District was Habersham Adams. This new Church was assigned to Cave Spring Circuit and Rev. B. E. L. Timmons was appointed as the first pastor.

In 1878 Rev. Timmons was succeeded by Rev. Amicus W. Williams, father of Marvin Williams, and in the same year, with extra help from George S. Brown, the debt on the Church was completely paid. Bishop H. N. McTiete presided at the dedication service. In connection with the dedication of this first building it is interesting to note that when Phillip Cohen, the Orthodox Jew who had given the property for the Church, saw the ladies decorating the Church name "Cohen's Chapel" in evergreen, he looked up with folded hands and said, "I will give you one bell." So this bell, given by a Jew to a Methodist Church, rang out its call to people to come and worship. Mr. Cohen frequently attended the services of the Church and almost never missed a Sunday School picnic. On one occasion when he was unable to go, he sent a letter of regret, enclosing ten dollars to be used in entertaining the children.
The next few years saw many changes of pastors as follows:
1879, O. A. Thrower; 1880, W. P. Rivers; 1882, Holmes (supply pastor); 1883, J. M. Tumlin; 1884, S. B. Ledbetter; 1885, W. T. Irvine; 1886, Artemus Lester; 1887, J. J. Ansley; 1888, H. W. Morris; 1889, J. E. Rorie; and from December 1890 to December 1893, C. A. Jamison.

In 1891 a hand carved pulpit was purchased. This lovely piece was made of solid oak and is now in the Men's Class Room. It was carved by a Mr. Charles Farris and later, re-finished by Edward Skelton.

In the meantime the name of the Church had been changed to "South Rome" and in a conference of 1893 was changed again to "Third Church." In this same year, it was made a station and Rev. Sid Stephens was assigned as pastor. Many people transferred their memberships to the Church when it became a station, among them being W. S. Simmons and his family. Mr. Simmons served as Superintendent of the Sunday School as long as he lived in the community. At the same time came Jesse N. McGhee with his family. Mr. McGhee served for many years as Superintendent of the Sunday School after Mr. Simmons moved from the community. At the same time came A. K. Morgan and family, Frank B. Huffaker and family, J. H. May and family, Mark B. Eubanks and family and A. C. Weems and family, all of whom were of great value to the work and growth of the Church.

In 1894 Rev. C. M. Verdel was sent as pastor of the Church and he was the first to serve the full quadrennium, during which time the Church grew and prospered.
Rev. Frank Colley was pastor from 1898 to 1900, followed by P. L. Stanton for one year and Henry D. Pace for three years. During the last year of Mr. Pace's pastorate, 1903, the charge was reduced to a half-station with East Rome. This situation continued for only one year and was restored to station status when H. L. Emory was sent as pastor in 1904. He was followed in 1905-1906 by A. E. Sansburne; 1907-1909 by F. D. Cantrell and it was during Rev. Cantrell's ministry here that the first parsonage was built. It was a new day in the history of the Church for it to have a home of its own for its pastor and his family. It was located at No. 11 McGhee Street.

In 1910 Rev. J. W. King became the pastor at which time the present site of the Church was purchased and the old Church removed from East Main Street to this location. So, what is now the recreation room was the original building which was moved to the present location in 1910. This original building served for many years as the Sunday School building after the present sanctuary was built and before the present Educational Building was erected. It was apparently at this time that the name was changed to "South Broad Methodist Church." Then came the following pastors: Frank Porter, 1911; A. F. Nunn, 1912-1913; A. D. Echols, 1914-1916 and L. W. Browder, 1917-1918.

In 1919, Charles V. Weathers came to give four full years of consecrated, tireless service. It was from his faith in God, himself and his fellow-man, that the vision grew which culminated in the building of the present sanctuary. A campaign for funds was launched and plans were secured from Rev. C. M. Lipham.
Charley Blackstock, who is still alive and an active member, took charge of the work. He was superintendent of construction, pur- chaser of materials, paymaster, and about anything else that is needed in such a venture, and not one cent would he receive for his services. The bell for the new building was given by Mrs. James A. Bale.

Although the building was completed before Brother Weathers left in 1922, there was a debt to be paid. Rev. W. A. Maxwell was pas- tor from 1923-1924. Then came R. J. Broyles under whose leadership the Church took new life and had a great revival. Not only were there added many souls on profession of faith, but the building debt was paid as well as all other debts. The Church was taken entirely off any mission help and the salary of the pastor increased to equal any other in Rome, except First Church. So the present Church Building was dedicated August 15, 1926 at which time was made available a printed history of the Church, as written by Mark B. Eubanks. Many copies still exist and this first part of the history has been taken largely from this work of Mr. Eubanks.

Following Brother Broyles, Dr. W. H. LaPrade, Sr., (despite the fact that he was eighty years of age and had superannuated) came to South Broad as pastor. The Conference Minutes of 1928 showed his record of service to cover fifty-four years.

Then came A. B. Sanders in 1928-1929. He was followed by F. E. Crutcher who was able to attest to our growth by saying that this was his first "city church." Then came C. B. Drake, 1932-1933; George Hamilton, 1934-1935; J. F. Young, 1936; J. W. Brinsfield, 1937-1939 and J. R. Allen, 1940 to May, 1942. Brother Allen died
while pastor of South Broad and his year was completed by Eugene Peacock, a student pastor from Emory. G. W. Davis served from 1943-1944.

The Buckner Class Building had been built by H. W. Buckner, at his own expense, in 1937, but the Church School was needing more space as time went on. With the coming of W. Earl Strickland, the decision was soon made to build an Educational Building. These plans were quickly put into action and the modern, efficient Educational Building was finished and occupied in 1947. Brother Strickland served from 1945-1948. Brother Roland Gann was Chairman of the Board of Stewards at this time and Mrs. I. M. Adams was (and still is) Treasurer of the Building Fund.

The Church has always been blessed with good superintendents of the Sunday School. Brother Jesse McGhee served until 1926 when Milton Tippin took the reins until 1942 with the exception of about two years, during which time Brother J. W. Whitehead served. Charles Allee and Carlos Hamil, each served well in that capacity and were followed by J. L. Nolen who is still serving well and faithfully, as Superintendent.

At the Annual Conference of 1948, J. Douglas Gibson was assigned as pastor and the Church was able to continue its building program during the year he served. The old parsonage on McGhee Street was sadly in need of repairs and it was traded for the rest of the block behind the Church, down West Main Street to Harper Avenue, including one more lot on Harper Avenue; other stipulations entering into the deal in our favor. A very lovely, modern brick home was built the same year and was in the process of being finished at the time of
the next Annual Conference. Gibson was transferred and did not have the privilege of moving into the new home. Rev. B. C. Barrett was assigned at the Conference of 1949, and continues in the work here. Our next step seems to be to get out of debt so we can start something else.

The Church has produced, from its membership, one Deaconess, Miss Moselle Eubanks, who is serving at Wesley Community House in Nashville, Tenn.

So, as we face the future, Brother T. C. Skelton is Chairman of the Board of Stewards; J. H. Taylor is Chairman of the Board of Trustees; J. L. Nolen is Superintendent of the Church School and Mrs. C. Wooten is President of the WSCS.