A HISTORY OF TRINITY CHURCH

The exact date of the beginning of Trinity Church seems to be lost to history. The general opinion is that the Church was started about the year 1870. One of the oldest Church Record Books available has the entry "Trinity Deed is for four acres more or less, from Z. B. Thomason & M. W. Finger, made May 12th 1873, Recorded in Clerks Office Hall County, Book K, Page 165, Aug. 22nd 1873." At least we can say that the Church is about eighty years old, and has outlived all but a few of the people alive at the time of its formation.

Trinity Church is located about one mile from Brookton and two miles from Clermont, Georgia. It is one of five Churches which make up Brookton Charge in the Gainesville District.

The area in which it is situated was not without Methodist people and Methodist Churches even before Trinity came into being. In fact, there were two Churches, one on either side of Trinity, which combined to build Trinity Church. The original Churches were Sunshine Church and Williams Chapel. Sunshine was located east of Trinity's site. Williams Chapel was west of the new Church. These Churches were served by Local Preachers and neither belonged to the Conference.

The two Churches agreed to consolidate and build another Church on half-way ground. Thus was the way paved for the erection of the first house of worship to be known as Trinity.

The two older Churches were both log buildings much smaller than the proposed building. The new building was a boxed house of good size for the expected congregations.
Rev. David L. Anderson was the pastor when Trinity was built. This energetic man of God pitched in and did manual labor to aid in the erection of the Church. He later became a Missionary, serving well in China.

Familiar names in the Church were those from Sunshine - families of Mr. Mose Finger, Dr. Rogers, S. H. Gailey, etc. Then there were the Duckett, Haynes, and Quillian families from Williams Chapel.

Mr. Mose Finger owned some of the Glade Mill property and built the mill there. Later owners, the Jennings family, were generous contributors to Trinity Church.

Records show that Trinity Church was placed in Hall Circuit, Gainesville District, North Georgia Conference in 1875. John R. Parker was Presiding Elder and J. H. Mashburn was Pastor in Charge.

A record book of later years shows an entry of September 5, 1909 which reads "An informal Church Conference was held and authority given the building committee to proceed to erect a new church on present site or near thereto at earliest date practicable.

Just a little more than a year later the people had their new Church. Q. L. Morgan was pastor at the time of building. The old Church was kept intact until the new building was finished. Then the old building was sold to one of the members.

A record dated October 2, 1910 states "Trinity M. E. Church, South, Gainesville District, North Georgia Conference, Hall Charge, was dedicated for the worship of Almighty God.

"W. C. Lovet, D. D. Preaching the Dedication Sermon. Rev. M. J. Cofer impressively conducted the dedication exercises. The house was filled to its utmost capacity."
A most interesting story is told that a collection taken the day of the dedication finished paying for the Church. Rev. Barnett was the first Pastor assigned after the new Church building was completed.

Passage of time has brought its improvements in the way of electric lights, a modern gas heating system, and the Sunday School Plant. This Sunday School plant - containing six rooms - was built during the thirties and has served a much greater number of people - over the years, than its actual capacity. During recent months it has played an important part in meeting the needs of the community by being used as a public school since Brookton School burned.

Trinity Church is definitely a rural Church. It has a rural setting - surrounded by trees, farmlands, and a Cemetery.

The Church is not pretentious - but its size is adequate for the needs of the community it serves - a community with the typically Anglo-Saxon population usually found in the Piedmont Plateau section of the Southeast.

While Trinity is the home Church of many people from the cradle to the grave - that is not her claim to worthiness. We might well call Trinity a "feeder" Church. For year after year the youth of our Church go out to schools and colleges, to find new jobs, new homes, and of course, new Churches.

When we bemoan - "What happens to our young people?" we might well give credit to the fact that many of them have grown up to find their places in other communities. Ministers, teachers, Christian parents and workers have known Trinity as the Church of their childhood. There are many people throughout this and other States who call this community "home". Trinity has been like a spring - sending its youth, like waters, into the river of life.
The number of young people in Trinity Church has usually been small. But there has been the expressed desire through the history of the Church to keep a Young People's organization alive. Years ago it was called the Epworth League. The name has been changed, of course, and now it's the MYF or Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The Women's Society for Christian Service should also be given credit for its faithfulness to keep going and to render a great service in the name of the Church.

The future is of course unknown. But we can well believe that Trinity Church will be a part of the future of the community. Because, come good times or bad, come joy or sorrow - God's Church meets the needs of the community it serves.