HISTORY
OF
CEDARTOWN CHARGE

Blooming Grove Church
Lindsey Chapel Church
Wesley Chapel Church
THE WESLEY CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

The Wesley Chapel Methodist Church was organized about a hundred years ago under an old-fashioned bush arbor with the Rev. Elijah Byrd delivering the first sermon.

Rev. Byrd and his wife, who was affectionately known as Aunt Annie, with some early settlers built the bush arbor which was used as a place of worship. Several years later a building was constructed at this site in the northern portion of Polk County near the Floyd County line.

The church grounds consist of about three acres of land which were donated by Ben Maroney. At one time a school building was located on this property.

This church, one of the oldest in the county, has been served by some of the ablest ministers in the North Georgia Conference. Among them were: Rev. Weyman H. Potter, Rev. W. D. Anderson, Rev. James W. Lee, Rev. J. W. Trawick, Rev. S. B. Ledbetter, Rev. C. K. Henderson, Rev. T. W. Irvine, Rev. J. T. Eakes, Rev. W. H. LaPrade, Jr., Rev. Crowe and Rev. Davis. Rev. Joe Sewell was pastor in 1891.

Serving as Superintendents of the Sunday School for a long number of years were Juluis Hamilton and Captain John A. Tucker. Emory Shiflett is the present superintendent.

Among the early members of the Wesley Chapel Church were: Mrs. S. M. H. Byrd and family; Rev. and Mrs. Elijah Byrd, August Stokes, Mrs. Mary Hazlett, Mrs. Emma Wym, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Tedder and family, S. M. Wynn, Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Caldwell, Fletcher Wynn, George Washington, Bush Washington, Leila Washington, the Winkles family and Ben Shiflett.

Records are not complete, but it was found that the following persons were charter members of Wesley Chapel Church: Fletcher Wynn, Jule Wynn, Harvey Washington, John Caldwell, J. A. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Tedder, Ben Hucks, S. M. H Byrd, and Mary Jame Tucker.

The present pastor of the church is the Rev. O. B. Tally, who also serves three other Methodist Churches in the circuit.