In the year of our Lord, 1879, the Methodist people of this community sorely felt the need of a place to worship.

There being no place convenient, the community fathers, after much prayer and thought, decided to build a Church of their own. Meetings were called and plans discussed. The first need, of course, was the land on which to erect the Church. Since very little money was available, it made the possibility of buying a site very remote. This problem was solved in a typical Christian way. Instead of having to purchase land, materials, and labor, these services and necessities were donated by some of our staunchest founding fathers. Among these were T. W. Garfield, Sr., one of the prime instigators of the project, and Robert Mabry. Work was provided by the families of these men and many others. Lumber was obtained from the nearby woods, and though the helpers were few, the Church was soon finished.

So seventy-two years ago, Wesley Chapel Methodist Church came into being.

The first pastor to serve Wesley Chapel was Rev. Roland, and one of the first Sunday School Superintendents was W. H. (Uncle Billy) Hagood, who was probably the best known and loved of all those who have participated in the building and serving of Wesley Chapel. "Uncle Billy" served in this capacity for many years, seeing many of the children of this community find the Christian life.

Life was not all roses for the faithful of Wesley Chapel, though; many obstacles and problems presented themselves. For instance, several years ago a severe storm destroyed the first Church building and forced the good people again to show their mettle by rebuilding the Church.
Two brothers, V. N. and Harley Mabry, provided a great deal of the effort and skill to complete this undertaking. The new building was larger and better than the old one, and interest increased.

Soon after the first building was erected the cemetery, which covers the area West of the Church, was started, and since then the people of Wesley Chapel community have brought their loved ones to their final place of rest.

Down through the years from Rev. Roland and "Uncle Billy" Hagood to the present time an outstanding array of men and women have given of their talent, time, and efforts in the service of God here at Wesley Chapel.

To mention all these good leaders would be a difficult undertaking, since so many records have been lost. But some of them are familiar to us all. Among these are Virgil N. Mabry, a successor to Uncle Billy as Superintendent; W. P. Rowe, John Moore, B. A. Chastain, J. M. Perry, and others who served as pastors; Harley Mabry, former minister and one of our foremost lay leaders; and so very many others we could not possibly remember them all.

In 1950 Rev. Sanford McDonald was sent as pastor of the Circuit and a new chapter in the life of Wesley Chapel was begun. With his invaluable help and guidance the Church set out on a building program both material and spiritual.

In January 1951 authority was given committees headed by Ralph Pettitt and Lesley Fricks to commence building a Sunday School annex. Now the annex is almost completed and already the rooms are being used. Everyone is extremely proud of this new accomplishment. As in many previous instances, the Christian spirit and courage of the people of Wesley Chapel showed itself in this case. Through the efforts of everyone concerned the annex will soon be finished and our future plans are being taken care of as fast as possible.
To those of the past who founded the Church and to those of the present who have labored so hard to make it even better, we pay tribute, and we feel that God is proud of them. To those of the future, the challenge is made. That challenge, we feel, will be met and in a way that is representative of Wesley Chapel.

God has been good to us and has given us many blessings. We only hope that our efforts in His behalf can in some measure merit these blessings, and our prayer is that in the next seventy-two years Wesley Chapel will grow and serve God even more faithfully and stronger than ever before.

Wesley Chapel Historical Committee