HISTORY
Of
YORKVILLE CHARGE

Braswell Church
Mt. Nebo Church
Mt. Tabor Church
Mt. Zion Church
Pleasant Grove Church
Smyrna Church
Wesley Chapel Church
Yorkville Church
In 1854, W. J. Wardlaw and M. W. Arnold were on the Carrollton circuit. During the year they organized a Methodist Church, named Wesley Chapel, about three and a half miles north of Villa Rica. Soon after the church was organized, and during the same year, a house was built, which remained until 1890, when it was torn down, and a new one begun. The new house was completed and dedicated in 1891.

A short time before the church was organized, some of the Arnolds and Turners, of Middle Georgia, moved into the community and they were among the first and most prominent members of the new church. They were Methodists before they left Middle Georgia and as soon as they could do so built them a church of that denomination near their new homes. Among those that came from Middle Georgia to Carroll county were Asbury C. Arnold and family, James R. Turner and family, and Thomas Turner and family. These all united with the new church.

The first trustees were Asbury C. Arnold, James R. Turner, Larkin H. Davis, Thomas Turner and Josiah Tolbert. Asbury C. Arnold was a son of William Arnold of the Georgia Conference and a brother to M. W. Arnold of the North Georgia Conference.
James R. Turner was the father of William S. Turner of the Georgia Conference. Larkin H. Davis was a brother to Cris. C. Davis, a popular local preacher of Atlanta. Thomas Turner, brother of James R. Turner, was a local preacher. He died before the church was completed and was buried July 4, 1854 at the graveyard near the church, his grave being the first ever dug in the graveyard. Many have been buried there since.

Allow a digression. Among those that sleep in the old graveyard are "Uncle" Claiborn Trussell, one of the purest and best men that ever lived in this section. He was a member of the Georgia Conference and of the North Georgia Conference for fifty-two years. His body sleeps at Wesley Chapel, while his spirit shouts in the conference above. A grand old man was he.

Wesley Chapel has given two preachers to the itinerancy. William S. Turner joined the Georgia Conference in 1854, the year the church was organized. In 1867 he transferred to Alabama. In 1878 he located. He died at Fort Valley, Georgia, March 14, 1891. He was a good man and a useful preacher.

J. T. H. Miller, a member of the West Texas Conference, and who in 1891 was stationed at Llano, Texas, was converted and joined the church at Wesley Chapel.

About two miles from this church, that prince among
young preachers, Dr. W. A. Candler, (Later Bishop), first saw the light of day.

For many years Wesley Chapel stood still. At times there were symptoms of death. In the beginning of 1890 her members were few. That year the Rev. S. R. Belk was in charge of the Villa Rica Circuit. At this time Wesley Chapel belonged to this circuit. But what was Wesley Chapel? The house was old, the members few, and the prospects gloomy. But the preacher was full of faith and the Holy Ghost. He went to work with all his power consecrated to the service of the Lord. God blessed his efforts. A wonderful revival was the result. About sixty members joined the church. The old members took on new life. A new church must be built. The money was subscribed, the work begun and the house was finished in 1891. It is 40 X 60. It was considered the best country church in the Rome district at that time. The new church was dedicated on the third Sunday in September. An immense crowd was present. Rev. S. R. Belk, the popular pastor of Payne's Chapel, Atlanta, preached the sermon, and dedicated the house. The sermon was an able one and fully sustained the reputation of the preacher. (Written by M. S. Williams) (Pastor Wesley Chapel)
This building is still standing and it has been repaired several times and is still a good building. After the Villa Rica Church was organized and built was in the Villa Rica Circuit until 1940 when it was put in the Yorkville Circuit and then was put in the Dallas Circuit and this year in the Temple Circuit.

In the middle of the 1950-51 Conference Year the church was transferred to the Yorkville charge and is still a part of this work to date.

Written by

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