

HISTORY
Of
ROME CELENASE AND WEST ROME METHODIST CHURCHES

Atlanta - West Rome

THE HISTORY OF THE WEST ROME METHODIST CHURCH.

A meeting was held May 18, 1951, at Harpst Home, Cedartown, Georgia, for the purpose of organizing the Rome District Board of Missions and Church Extension Inc. Through the fine service of Colonel Jack Harris, and without any charge by him, the Board was incorporated as ordered by vote of the members.

Edward L. Yeargan was made President; Howard McCamy, Secretary; Ralph McGhee, Treasurer; and Delma L. Hagood, Executive Secretary.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on June 16th. it was decided the most immediate district need was to sponsor the buying of a lot for opening a new Methodist Church in West Rome area in Rome, Georgia. This project had been discussed for twenty five years and the need and opportunity were great. The Executive Committee voted to buy the most ideal lot that could be found - a beautiful 250 foot lot facing Shorter Avenue, at the corner of Shorter Avenue and Elm Street. This lot had a ten room frame building and being in such a desirable location could not be bought for less than \$ 17,000.00 and on June 18th. the Board purchased the property for \$ 17,000.00. The ten room frame dwelling has been renovated and is now being used for a church and Sunday School.

The Rev. Forrest L. King was appointed pastor of the West Rome project with his appointment becoming effective July 1, 1951. His salary for the first year is being paid by the General Board of Missions.

Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Delma L. Hagood, who also as Executive Secretary of the Rome District Board of Missions and Church Extension, Inc. , was the driving force and organizing power of the new board. He was joined with a man of known working ability upon the arrival of the Rev. Forrest L. King. His interest, enthusiasm and faith in the project has proved a man of great ability.

Possession was taken of the property on September 19, 1951, this being Wednesday. That same Wednesday night a ten day tent revival was started in the Rome District tent, that was pitched on the front yard of the property right in front of the house, the tent backed up against the house using the concrete front porch as chair loft and pulpit stand which was ideal for the purpose. The first night 77 people came to the tent meeting. The following Methodist preachers assisted Rev. King in the tent revival : Delma L. Hagood, District Superintendent of the Rome District; Zach C. Hayes, pastor, First Methodist Church; P. M. Minter, pastor at Second Avenue; W. S. Echols, assistant pastor at First Church; John Minter, pastor of Rome Circuit; and James Sanders, pastor of Mizpah-Rush Charge. Mrs. P. M. Minter, Mrs. G. B. Roe and Mrs. Bruce Heard, pianists.

The day following the night the revival was started, work was begun on renovating the house. Partitions were removed from between the front four rooms to form the sanctuary capable of seating 140 to 150 and leaving six rooms for classrooms and two baths for rest rooms. This work was rushed to be finished for the official church opening Sunday October 7, 1951, on which day 58 members joined the new West Rome Church. Since it was decided to make the church full time from the beginning it was necessary to secure an assistant pastor because half of the Pastor's Sundays are used at Celanese. This being the situation the District Superintendent and Pastor secured an Assistant Pastor, Rev. Joe Faulkner, who is a student at Emory and comes up on the week-ends. He has charge and preaches every other Sunday in the absence of the pastor and works with the young people every week-end. His salary is paid by the Conference Board of Missions.

Sunday evening November 18th. the District Superintendent preached and held the first Quarterly Conference after the church was started. At this Conference the Board of Stewards was elected. The following men were elected as stewards : Frank Perry, D. J. Raiden, C. J. Raley, Perry Caldwell, M. S. Skelton, Ben Rainwater, S. H. Bridges, Horace Wiseman and Nelson Camp.

The church now has a good growing Church School with an average attendance of 72 for the first three months. Mr. C. J. Raley is Church School Superintendent and Miss Mary Rodgers is Secretary.

A Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized immediately after the Church was started and this organization is doing a splendid job with Mrs. M. S. Skelton, as president.

The M. Y. F., Junior and Adult Fellowship groups, have been organized and are real active. Johnny Davis is president of the M. Y. F. and Marvin Otts is president of the Adult Group. Mrs. Perry Caldwell is Counselor assisted by Bro. Faulkner and they are doing a good job with the young people.

The Board of Stewards went to work with their duties immediately after elected by the Quarterly Conference. Nelson Camp was elected Chairman, Perry Caldwell, Vice Chairman, D. J. Raiden, Secretary of the Board and Frank Perry, Church Treasurer.

In December the Board of Stewards with the help of other men from the church enlarged the sanctuary by enclosing the front porch, thereby increasing the seating capacity to 175 to 185.

The time set for receiving charter members was through Sunday January 6, 1952. When the time expired the church was proud to claim 125 charter members. The interest and work of this membership convinces us that a great church has been started. The charter members of the West Rome Methodist Church are as follows :

Keith, Mrs. Frances
Johnson, Emmett G
Johnson, Mrs. Emmett G.
Cofer, W. A.
Cofer, Mrs. W. A.
Perry, B. Frank
Perry, Mrs. B. Frank
Perry, Gerald
Raley, C. J.
Raley, Mrs. C. J.
Raley, C. J., Jr. (Pete)
Bell, Mrs. Ben
Raiden, D. J.
Raiden, Mrs. D. J.
Caldwell, Perry
Caldwell, Mrs. Perry
White, George
White, Mrs. George
Field, Charles
Field, Mrs. Charles
Wingard, Burk
Kirby, Thomas
Kirby, Mrs. Thomas
Rainwater, Ben
Rainwater, Mrs. Ben.
Rainwater, Charles
Rainwater, Joel
Rainwater, Allen
Hall, Charles
Hall, Mrs. Charles
Hall, Peyton
Hall, Charles, Jr.
Aycock, Mrs. Gordon
Bridges, S. H.
Bridges, Mrs. S. H.
McCool, Henry
McCool, Mrs. Henry
McCool, James
McCool, Jerrell
Shelnut, Mrs. George
Shelnut, Mary Anne
Wiseman, Horace
Wiseman, Mrs. Horace
Wiseman, Donna
Wiseman, Horace, Jr.
Drummond, B. E.
Drummond, Mrs. B. E.
Drummond, Danny
Tankersley, Mrs. S. W.
Leonard, Mrs. M. G.
Skelton, Malcolm S.
Skelton, Mrs. Malcolm S.
Ellison, Charles A.
Ellison, Mrs. Charles
Ellison, Glenda

Lowery, James A.
Lowery, Mrs. James A
Touchstone, Howard
Touchstone, Mrs. Howard
Jacobs, Mrs. W. E.
Rodgers, Miss Mary
Henson, Paul
Lefler, Jimmy T
Lefler, Mrs. Jimmy T.
Otts, Marvin P.
Otts, Mrs. Marvin P.
Otts, Miss Elizabeth
Coward, James
Coward, Mrs. James
Camp, Mrs. George
Camp, Nelson
Camp, Mrs. Nelson
Bailey, Ernest
Bailey, Mrs. Ernest
Kilgore, J. T.
Kilgore, Mrs. J. T.
Cook, Dan. R.
Cook, Mrs. Dan. R.
Stewart, Henry
Stewart, Mrs. Henry
Payne, Miss Marion
Touchstone, Mrs. M. D.
Johnson, C. H.
Johnson, Mrs. C. H.
Prewett, Mrs. E. L.
Prewett, Hal.
Burdett, Robert P.
Burdett, Mrs. Robt. P.
Holliday, B. C.
Holliday, Mrs. B. C.
Davis, John
Davis, Mrs. John
Davis, Johnny
Davis, Emily
King, G. W.
King, Mrs. G. W.
Mills, L. C.
Mills, Mrs. L. C.
Russell, M. C.
Russell, Mrs. M. C.
Doss, Charles
Doss, Mrs. Charles
Doss, Eugene
Nixon, A. D.
Nixon, Mrs. A. D.
Nixon, Dan
Nixon, Linda
Nixon, Jane
Payne, John
Ross, Nancy

Moore, C. W.
Moore, Mrs. C. W.
Myers, Henry
Myers, Mrs. Henry
Skelton, W. E.
Skelton, Mrs. W. E.
Skelton, Carolyn
Skelton, Louise
Case, Mrs. James E.
Hickman, Mrs. Marie
Smith, Mrs. H. T.
Ayers, Mrs. A. E.
Burk, Joseph Alfred
Burk, Mrs. Joseph Alfred
Studdard, Mrs. J. D.

Mary L. Rodgers
Historian